

PALL MALL GAZETTE

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AFTER THE LULL.

THE opening of the "Special Commission" Court to-day closes the political lull which different persons on the same side have regarded differently, according to their temperaments, as a welcome relief from the Irish stew, or as a shameful lukewarmness towards the Irish cause. There is a great deal to be said for each view of the matter. It really is important that politicians and the public alike should have every now and then a breathing space during which they may take a wider view of the political world than that bounded by the Irish Channel. On the other hand, Mr. DAVITT'S recent utterances of impatience were very useful as calling attention to the agrarian evil in Ireland, which is there, weighing on the Irish peasantry, alike whether we talk about it or whether we forbear, and for which it is the first duty of Liberal statesmen to suggest a remedy. The man who is nearest to the lives of the Irish people, and to whom their happiness is dearest, naturally deploras the political lull as so much wasted opportunity. The man whose slacker sympathies enable him to look rather at the political than the social side of public questions naturally welcomes the lull as so much gained breathing space. Now, however, for good or evil, the lull is over. Dublin was noisy yesterday with demonstrations. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has sent up a bleat from Birmingham; and this afternoon all London will be talking about the Special Commission in the Strand. This last is the biggest event of the three; and luckily it not only breaks the lull, but enables us to take such stock of the situation as may help perhaps to reconcile the divergent views which we have described above and which have already caused some bickerings and bitterness.

To the impatient reformer the significance of the Special Commission is that it suggests the steady and inevitable evolution which is going on in the Irish question. The Special Commission itself is, in the hopes of the Unionists, a gigantic scheme for thwarting such evolution. The stage which the process has now reached is the change from unconstitutional to constitutional methods. To facilitate this change has been the work of Mr. PARNELL'S life; and the Special Commission which opens to-day is the last attempt of the Tories to prevent his complete success. It is amusing to note the naïve frankness with which the Unionist journals show their hand. They have now given up all pretence of belief in the famous "letters," and one after another they labour to show that the letters are really of no importance anyhow. Ministers "hedged" long ago, before the Session was over. Professor DICEY hedged on behalf of the Liberal Unionists in the *Spectator* some two or three weeks since. And now this morning the *Standard* hedges for the Tories. But the letters, it cannot be too often remembered, were the one thing which the *Times* added to the case against Mr. PARNELL. Eliminate them, and the "charges and allegations" into which the judges will have to inquire will be substantially the same as Mr. FORSTER and Lord SPENCER inquired into six years ago. The *Standard* admits this, and what it wants, therefore, is a general inquiry into "the connection of the Land League with crime." Here we have it, then. The Irish National movement is now free from all taint of unconstitutional methods. It stands solid and in line with one of the two historical parties in the State. The other party sees this, and trembles. But it has one hope left—the hope of being able to besmirch the present by digging deep enough down into the past, and of discrediting a more advanced stage in a progress of political evolution by harking back to possible evils in a less advanced stage. It would be improper to express any opinion on the questions thus at issue; but there is no reason why one should not state clearly that the attempt of the Tories is foredoomed to failure. If they succeed in establishing all that they desire, the thoughtful student of development in politics will only see so much additional reason to be glad at the advance from the unconstitutional to the constitutional stage.

A similar appreciation of the inevitable drift of events should be borne in upon the more impatient spirits by the Dublin demonstrations and the Birmingham *ballon d'essai*. The reign of Balfourism in Ireland is odious, but is it not perhaps an odious necessity? Is not Coercion a schoolmaster for bringing the English electors to the knowledge of Home Rule? This was the

line which Mr. WILLIAM O'BRIEN'S speech at Dublin yesterday suggests. TOM MORONEY has been very hardly dealt with. There is no doubt about it. But TOM MORONEY glories in his suffering. And as for his compatriots, we come, said Mr. O'BRIEN, "not to pity him, but to admire, to envy, and to imitate." How odious is the "law" which thus enlists the fortitude of a people against itself, and how impotent the "order" which thus fails to arm its enforcement with any terrors. The continuance of such a system under the forms of our English Government, and with the existing distribution of political forces, would obviously be impossible—even if we did not at the same time have Mr. CHAMBERLAIN admitting that there is really no alternative except between Home Rule at one bite and Home Rule at two bites. Such is the position of vantage on which we stand to-day. It should surely be enough to curb any impatience that has been fostered, and to excite any zeal that has been dormant, during the lull.

A TRAGEDY IN HUMBLE LIFE.

I.

THE scent of mignonette was heavy in the air, and the little room was bright with cut roses from the garden. They stood about everywhere—on the table, on the mantelpiece, on the bookshelves, filling the little room with fragrance and colour. It was a very small room. One side of it was hung over with pictures testifying to the artistic tastes of the owner. The window almost filled one end, the fireplace occupied the third side, while the library occupied the fourth. That neat little book-case, with its glass doors and well-filled shelves, seemed to be the central point of the humble home. There were only three or four shelves, but they were well filled with well-thumbed works. There was a stout volume of Shakespeare in the place of honour, and at the other end of the same shelf a complete set of the Waverley Novels. Bohn's edition of Dante done into English stood next to Shakespeare. There were a couple of volumes of Defoe and a miscellaneous collection of books of travel, history, romance, and poetry. The owner, whoever he was, seemed to be a man with as great a taste for reading as he was evidently a lover of the beautiful in nature and in art. On the table in the centre of the room lay a Bible on which was stamped "First Prize," and inside an inscription set forth that it had been awarded to a girl named Grace, the daughter of the owner of the library, and the cultivator of the roses. In the window-sill, in boxes of virgin cork, other flowers were blooming. The sun was shining after one of the heavy showers of this damp September, and glimpses of blue sky appeared amid the clouds. But although it would be difficult to conceive a pleasanter little parlour in a workman's home, there was a sombre gloom about the place, which contrasted strangely with the glory of the crimson roses and the home-like comfort of the room. For the chair of the father was empty; and among his roses and his books a young girl, with eyes all red and swollen with weeping, sobbed aloud.

II.

That same afternoon, last week, in a still smaller room in the North of London, the occupant of that vacant chair was pacing feverishly to and fro. He was a man of fifty, about middle stature, with heavy moustache and beard, beginning to grizzle with years. His features, strongly marked and impressive, bore tokens of intense feeling and long-suppressed and bitter emotion. The place was as different from his home in Merton as darkness is from light. Not a picture on the walls, not a flower in the room. In place of the garden, fragrant with mignonette and the flowers pressing against the window panes, the only glimpse of the outer world was the grey light that came from a narrow iron-barred window, and occasionally the distant sound of wheels. The walls were of stone. The door was iron-bound and locked. The only furniture was a wooden bed, a stool, and a small deal table, on which lay a Bible, a Prayer-book, and a hymn-book. There was no other book. The print of the Bible was too small to be read without straining of the eyes in the dim uncertain light. The man was alone. He was a prisoner. Twenty-three hours out of the twenty-four he was shut up in that solitary cell in Holloway gaol, with nothing to do, nothing to read, no one to speak to—eating his heart out in silence, and wrestling in his solitude with thoughts that seemed to drive him to despair. Thrice a day the warder came and brought his food: bread and skilly in the morning; bread and skilly in the evening; at noon bread and soup and potatoes. At a quarter to six in the morning the harsh clang of the prison bell startled him from a troubled sleep, in which he had forgotten for a time the memories that preyed all day upon his heart,

until, at a quarter past eight, the same metallic monitor summoned him once more to bed. To an active man full of energy, who from his childhood up had never known an idle hour, this enforced indolence was maddening. How slowly the minutes crawled by! What an age there seemed between the chimings of the clock! Nothing to do, nothing to read. Only to think, think, think the maddening thought of a ruined home, of a blighted life, of a wretched past, of a miserable future. Once a day the door opened and he was marched out in company with pickpockets and drunkards to exercise, like a horse in a mill, round the prison-yard for one hour. Then back to the cell to the vigils of despair. Every other morning—only every other morning, for with all our wealth we cannot afford our prisoners the luxury of daily service—he spent half an hour in the chapel, half forgetting even his misery in the roll of the organ and the music of the hymn; but otherwise he was alone—alone always, and with nothing to do, only to think, and think, and think. He had in vain implored his warders to give him something to do, anything, any kind of labour, no matter how hard, that would afford him some occupation. It was refused. He was not convicted of any crime. In the eye of the law he was innocent. He wore the dark-blue dress of remanded prisoners; he had their skilly, but oakum—no, that was a forbidden luxury. And so the prolonged torture went on. And ever as he paced his cell there rose before him the image of that desecrated home and the ruined life, and down the long vista of the future he saw reproduced all the miserable incidents of his own past. Hope lighted no torch to cheer the darkness of that outlook. Memory and Experience stood by his side and whispered, "As you have been, so will it be; the dismal pilgrimage which you have trod will begin anew from the cradle. To that curse there is no end."

III.

In the tragedy of life there are few moments so bitter as that in which a man recoils in shame and terror from the responsibility of having helped to perpetuate the existence of his race. Was it not enough to have been born yourself without calling into being other innocent mortals to bear the burden of life, doomed to suffering and to sin from the cradle to the grave? But when that thought seizes you it is too late. The curse has been passed on, and your children and your children's children enter into the inheritance of doom. So, at least, it seemed to James Young, of Merton, as he watched once more the shades of evening darken the narrow windows of his cell. At these times it is only the shadows of life that are visible. Its disappointments, its chagrins, its anguish stand out in grim relief, obscuring the many happy years of labour and of love as completely as the rough mountain masses conceal the pleasant sunlit valleys that shelter in their shade. His life had not been in reality so unutterably sad. Joy had come to him as to the rest of us. He had been blessed with the love of wife and of child, his home had been bright, his family had been united, his health had been good, and his love of reading and of flowers had filled his leisure with a happy content. But his present situation and the horror of the incident which placed him there flung his memory back to the darkness that overshadowed his earliest years. For James Young had the misfortune to be born out of wedlock. He was the son of one of those child-mothers for whose protection the Legislature three years since reinforced the criminal law, but who fifty years ago were held by the law to be fully qualified to assent to their own undoing. She was not sixteen when his father, who was more than double her age, left her to the shame that overtakes the unmarried mother. His earliest remembrance was that of a child fatherless, but unable to say that its father was dead, and awakening to a painful sense that its existence was the seal of its mother's disgrace. She was a good mother to him, young though she was, and she brought him up as best she could, earning a precarious and scanty living by her needle. His father—a constable, who afterwards rose to be a superintendent in the force to which is intrusted the guardianship of public morals—left his son to struggle up as best he could: after the fashion of such men. When a very child he asked, with natural curiosity, about his father; the hot red blush that overspread his mother's face, the evasive reply, filled the boy's mind with a painful sense of an evil mystery attending his birth. It was not long a mystery. When he went to school—for out of her needlewoman's wages she paid his school-pence with unfailing punctuality—he was taunted by his schoolmaster as a bastard. Then he knew that there was a stigma indelibly attached to his name, that he had brought disgrace upon his mother by coming into the world, and that no matter how long he lived, he could never escape from the curse of his illegitimacy. Many children would not have felt it so deeply. But he was a sensitive child, and the disgrace rankled in his soul. As he grew up, it was ever with him—a dark shadow from which he could never escape.

After he left school and began to work he lived in constant dread lest the secret of his birth should be known. It was a skeleton in the house which any inquiring stranger might stumble upon. If he joined a friendly society he winced when answering the inquiries as to his parentage. He could not give particulars as to his birth in any return that might be required without writing down his mother's shame and his own disgrace. As a leper who conceals the fatal secret beneath his clothes dreads the chance of revealing the plague which preys upon his flesh, so James Young trembled whenever he heard a question as to his father. The guilty consciousness that he was base-born haunted him like a grisly spectre that no exorcism could lay. Imaginary and sentimental though this might seem to others, it was terribly real to him. When he reached manhood he fell in love with a young girl who knew nothing about his antecedents.

The joy of that first young love was marred the moment the thought occurred, which for the moment had been forgotten, that he was a bastard. He tenderly loved the girl. She returned his affection. They kept company for some time. Whenever he met her he felt an inward dread of the inevitable question. Sooner or later it was sure to come; and then? At last it came. "Why don't you take me to see your people?" said the girl carelessly. He made some excuse, and hurried home, distracted between the rival claims of love and duty. If he told her, she would scorn to marry a nameless bastard. If he did not, how could he deceive the trusting girl whom he so passionately loved. It was a crisis in his life—one of those miserable moments which leave an ineffaceable scar upon the soul. A long time he struggled hard to evade or postpone a decision. Another question as to his father forced him to make his choice. He broke off the engagement without a word. "I preferred," he said, "that she should think I was a scoundrel who had been trifling with her affections rather than face the shame of confessing that my mother was not married."

Time, the comforter, assuaged the smart of that bitter pang; but its memory never left him. He married some time afterwards a girl who had known his story from her childhood, and after his marriage he settled down to a much happier life. Children were born to him—two sons and one only daughter. He had very regular work in his trade as house-painter; he took a little garden, where he cultivated roses; he stocked his house with books, and for many years all went well. His daughter was the pride of the house. A bright lively child, she was her father's favourite, and they determined that nothing should be spared to secure her happiness. And now, after nineteen years, during which he had fondly watched over her ripening womanhood, it had come to this! His daughter was as his mother had been, and ere long another child would begin afresh the dreary road which its grandfather had trod. In the brief summary of the morning news was read:—

Yesterday, at Wandsworth police-court, James Young, painter, of Merton, was remanded for a week on a charge of shooting Edgar Woolley, whom he accused of ruining his daughter Grace. Woolley, who was in Guy's Hospital, was too ill to appear, and the case was remanded until his recovery.

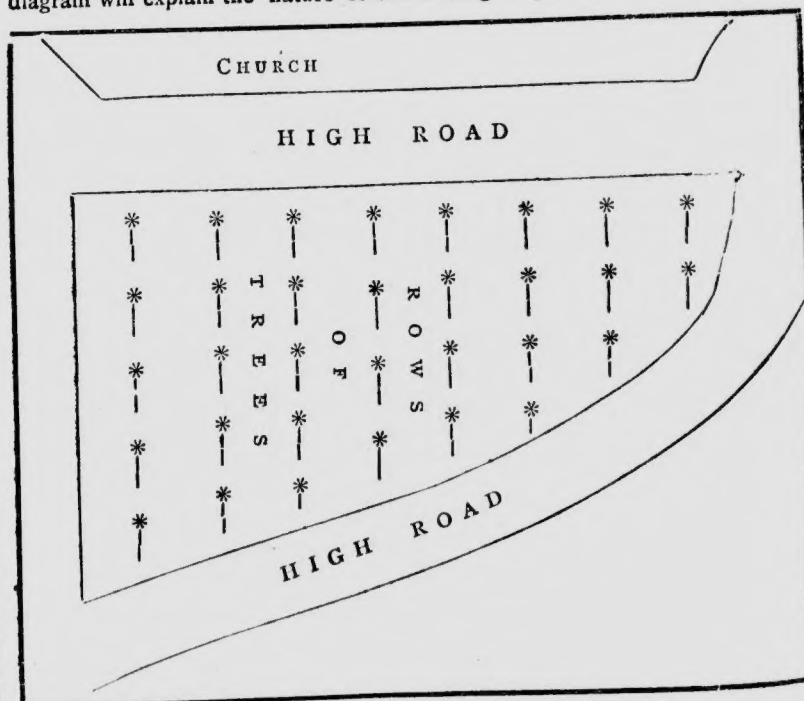
It was only a paragraph in the papers to others. But to him it was the record of how the Nemesis of his father's sin had overtaken the grandchild and shadowed with a curse the infant yet unborn.

(To be continued.)

THE WAR AGAINST FREE SPEECH.

PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN AT YARMOUTH.

THE campaign against public meetings in the open air which has been begun in London is being carried on with great vigour by the watch committee of Yarmouth. Yarmouth is not exactly the town in which outsiders would think the streets were so crowded by the rush of traffic as to render it impossible, without serious obstruction, for public meetings to be held in the open spaces which abound in that ancient town. That, however, makes no matter. The watch committee have determined to put down public meetings, and put down they will be unless there is a very vigorous expression of public opinion adverse to the reactionary gentlemen who are at present supreme in the bloater capital. Public meetings of all kinds have been held in Yarmouth from time immemorial without any one interfering with them, till last month the Conservative majority on the watch committee decided that the Socialists, who were holding meetings in the Church Plain, must be put down. They accordingly prosecuted a young Socialist for obstruction in the Church Plain. It is well to understand what the Church Plain is, and the following rough diagram will explain the nature of the Trafalgar-square of Yarmouth:—



As will be seen by the above, it lies between two roads, is planted with rows of trees, and several thousands of people could hold a meeting upon that open space without the least inconvenience to any human creature. That, however, is a detail which does not concern the watch committee. The Socialists

were to be put down, but, unfortunately for them, the Socialists are not the only people who hold open-air meetings in Yarmouth. It has been the custom for some time past for the Church Army, Blue Ribbon Army, and the Salvation Army to hold open-air meetings in the town. Against all of these, therefore, the watch committee have declared war. They sent a Salvationist to prison for a month, and two other Socialists, and on Saturday they dealt with no fewer than thirty Salvationists and others for "obstructing the thoroughfare." The lieutenant of the Salvation Army, Mr. Dill, a barrister of the Inner Temple, tried to arrange a *modus vivendi* on Saturday, but several were sent to gaol.

Mr. Dill called at our office, and explained the matter very clearly. "It is determined to attempt," he said, "to suppress all meetings in the open air. It began with the Socialists, it has come on to us, and we shall take our part in the fight. An attempt was made to separate the Socialists from the religious bodies, but the magistrates refused to discriminate, although in Stone's 'Manual for Justices of the Peace' it is distinctly asserted that in the case of religious meetings the magistrates, who otherwise might punish, may exercise their discretion, on account of the excellence of the motive. So we have to stand shoulder to shoulder. There will be no flinching on our part."

"I am very glad to hear it," said our representative. "If the Salvation Army had only been mixed up in the Trafalgar-square business we should long ago have arranged it without bothering any one."

"Do you mean to say that there was no obstruction whatever on the Church Plain?"

"Precisely—not the slightest. It is simply absurd; for any one who knows anything of Yarmouth is well aware that it is impossible to obstruct the thoroughfare, because there is no traffic to obstruct. We went down to the Quay on Sunday and retook possession of a position which we had given up for the sake of peace; but it is no use giving up to some people, for the more you give up, the more they demand. It is evident that all open-air meetings will be suppressed unless we make a stand. We have got to make a stand now, and it remains to be seen whether the public will stand by and see scores of us sent to prison as felons merely in order that the party majority of the watch committee may gag its political opponents."

"I suppose the bench is hostile?"

"Would you believe it," said Mr. Dill, "that when the prosecution was first instituted several members of the watch committee, who had ordered the prosecution, actually had so little sense of shame that they sat upon the bench to adjudicate in a case in which they were the prosecutors? On my calling attention to this they seemed to appreciate the justice of my remarks, and left the court."

"Then the fight is to go on?"

"Yes," said Mr. Dill, "to the bitter end; we shall not budge, not if they send the whole corps to prison."

"This is infamous. Surely the local authorities must be aware that they will get their knuckles rapped very severely if they don't mind? A month for an imaginary obstruction is too absurd for anything."

"I quite agree with you," said Mr. Dill, and so we are glad to see do the magistrates themselves, for on Saturday the magistrates only inflicted a nominal fine of 1s. and costs, or three days' imprisonment. Mr. Dill said that those who had no goods would prefer to go to prison rather than pay the fine, and he arranged with the Chief Constable when they were to give themselves up.

A BISHOP'S LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND.*

BISHOP COWIE explains that "Our Last Year" does not imply an intention not to return to New Zealand, but the fact that what he publishes is a diary kept during the year 1887, and describing, therefore, as nearly as possible, things as they now are in the island. Diaries can hardly be expected to have much literary merit. One might be disposed to suspect their genuineness if they had. It is enough if they tell us what we want to know; nor will any reasonable reader complain if he find in them many things that do not interest him. It may be said, for instance, that this book has a great deal of "shop" in it; and the remark would be quite true. Ordinations, confirmations, Church matters of all kinds, fill up a large proportion of its space, and indeed, to be quite candid, are sometimes a little wearisome. But then there are many people who want to hear about these things, in whose lives church-going and all that has reference to it fill a place far greater than some of us are able to realize. It is for them, in the first place, that the Bishop writes, though he has a good deal to say that has a general interest.

One of the most notable conclusions at which the Bishop arrives—having an experience, it should be said, of nearly twenty years—is that the absence of an Establishment does not produce the fraternity which its presence is often believed to discourage. The Roman communion must, of course, be the same everywhere. An absolute *non possumus* divides it from everything else. But the Bishop complains of the same lack of sympathy in other denominations. It is interesting to see him attribute the blame to "the clergy and other ministers of religion." Their zeal is accentuated, it would seem, "by the fact that lay-Christians generally throughout the colony have a tendency to fraternize." Let us hope that the ministers will have to follow their congregations. Here they are, on the whole, more ready than their priests to move in this direction.

On one matter of transcendent importance the denominations are ready to act together. No one in England has ventured to go so far as to demand, as did a conference of ministers held in Auckland, that the

"employment of barmaids should be made illegal." But we find this one of three resolutions, the others relating to more important aspects of "the social evil." For the rest we must be content to refer our readers to the volume itself. They will find it marked throughout with kindly feeling and good sense. Possibly the writer is a little too optimistic in tone, though he too has his misgivings about the large amount of New Zealand indebtedness. Anyhow, it is very pleasant to find him speaking so warmly of nearly all with whom he is brought into contact—as, for instance, of the Māori clergy, who seem, both as regards conduct and intelligence, well worthy of their office. Nor is it a slight satisfaction to be told that the second Bishop Selwyn is "haud impar patri." "More," as Bishop Cowie truly remarks, "could not be said in commendation of any missionary."

CORRESPONDENCE.

"KILLING OFF THE INFIRM": A DISCLAIMER.

To the EDITOR of the PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In your usual impulsive way, you have ventured to infer from what I said, or rather am reported to have said, at Bath, that I advocate killing off infirm persons! You had no right, either morally or logically, to come to any such conclusion. As a fact, nothing was said about infirm persons that is—adults. My remarks applied solely to children, who from inherited disease would naturally die were it not for the extraordinary medical skill which is obtainable at the present day, both by the rich, and in the case of the poor, by the aid of philanthropic societies—seldom, I believe, for the happiness of the incapable persons who are thus artificially reared, unless specially taken care of afterwards. I must ask you to publish this note in your next edition; and will merely add that neglect of sickly children by their parents is, or ought to be, considered manslaughter; and, as regards war, undertaken without good cause, it is even worse.—Yours, &c.,

J. PARK HARRISON.

Pall Mall, Sept. 14.

A PHRENOLOGIST ON MR. BALFOUR.

To the EDITOR of the PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—As a phrenologist I congratulate your artist on his clever sketch of Mr. Balfour in to-day's paper. He is the only artist who has correctly drawn the shape of the Chief Secretary's forehead. Most of the caricatures I have seen fail to convey the likeness by not drawing the forehead as it really is. Mr. Balfour has a very large development of the reflective faculties, but a marked deficiency in the perceptive region. Consequently, he is philosophic, critical, and argumentative, but no power of grasping and dealing with facts. As for such commonplace things as facts and figures, his mind is above such things. Not that he purposely ignores them, but that he is mentally incompetent of seeing and knowing them. The Irish members don't draw him out properly on this point. Their questions should be so put as to elicit facts only, and they should make their questions as short and direct as possible. They should continually ask questions in this style, "Is it a fact that so and so—?" giving him no loophole to catch at incongruities, draw comparisons, and reply in an argumentative style. Then his mental deficiency would be shown up, to his disadvantage.

Mr. Balfour is a philosopher, but has no executive ability whatsoever. The Irish Executive never had such a simpleton to deal with. He is, I feel sure, kind and sympathetic, but his utter inability to deal with commonplace objects renders him "a simple sage and a reasoning fool" in an executive position. A philosopher in an executive position is, and ever will be, a failure. The weak point in our parliamentary government is that power of debate is the only standard of merit. There could be no greater mistake.—Yours,

Sept. 13.

A PHRENOLOGIST.

THE TRUTH ABOUT HELIGOLAND.

To the EDITOR of the PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—I have not yet read Mr. W. G. Black's book on Heligoland, which, according to the review in to-day's *Pall Mall Gazette*, seems to be interesting reading; but if I am to understand that the author advocates the development of the "natural strength" of the island with the erection of "extensive fortifications" thereon, he, I fear, has not made himself acquainted with the actual condition of affairs. In the first place, Heligoland has no harbour; and in the second place, it is not stout enough to stand a discharge of heavy guns. Indeed, after such a discharge—so loose and crumbling are the rocks—there would, I fear, be but little of the island left. As a naval station, therefore, it is not of much use to us; neither is it of any great value to Germany, who certainly does not covet it. We have it and we naturally do not like to give it up; but it would be difficult to say what advantage accrues to us from the holding of it. It is not exactly a fashionable watering-place; but in summer it is much frequented, although this year it has been comparatively empty. There is no bathing-place on the island proper, would-be bathers having to take a boat to a low-lying island distant about half a mile from Heligoland. The *Sprache* of the islanders is an unwritten one, and is equally strange to English and German ears; but most people speak and understand German. English, however, is but very little spoken. Heligoland prides itself upon the redness of its rocks, the greenness of its sward, and the whiteness of its sands; but its best friend would scarcely say that it was picturesque. It is quaint, nothing more. The inhabitants are a kindly, honest folk, much given to gossiping and love-making. The latter is done in the highways; for, alas! Heligoland is too small to have by-ways—but then the natives are not shy in such matters. The men are strong and well-knit, the women small and mostly pretty. The "schwermerische Augen" of the Heligolanderins are famous. The inhabitants like us, especially the fair sex, and they are in a considerable majority. Our rule is easy and our Governor is popular.—Your obedient servant,

STUART C. CUMBERLAND, F.R.G.S.

Sept. 11.

* "Our Last Year in New Zealand, 1887." By W. G. Cowie, D.D., Bishop of Auckland. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1888.)

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

Mr. Chamberlain's preface to the Radical Unionist pamphlet on Ireland is interesting, although it can hardly claim to be very important. Three years ago Mr. Chamberlain was ready to give to an Irish National Council the settlement of the Land question. Now he is sure that the settlement of the land question must be undertaken by the Imperial Parliament, and must precede any political change. This session Mr. Chamberlain's Ministerial friends pledged themselves to introduce a bill extending the Ashbourne Act. Mr. Chamberlain now tells them that to this plan there is at least one "fatal objection," to say nothing of the fact that "no experienced electioneerer will question that the constituencies would probably destroy" the Government if it went much further in that direction. It is evident that in Mr. Chamberlain's opinion the Government must do as Mr. Chamberlain tells them, or the Government will disappear.

Mr. Chamberlain virtually gives up his case when he tells us that "if we are to continue to govern Ireland as a part of the United Kingdom, we must do for Ireland at least as much as a patriotic and capable Irish Parliament would accomplish," and that "unless the people of the United Kingdom are prepared to recognize this obligation, they are not justified in standing in the way of a Government which would at least attempt to fulfil it." Judged by this text, Home Rule is as certain as the rising of the sun. Because no one knows better than Mr. Chamberlain himself that the conditions which he insists upon as indispensable are practically out of the question.

The Local Government Board is of opinion, having regard to "the case of *Flintham v. Roxburgh* (17, Queen's Bench Division, 44), that a woman is not entitled to be elected a county councillor." The opinion of the Board has no weight in law; and in any case the best way of settling the question would be for a woman to get herself elected, and leave to the courts the interpretation of the new statute. This ought not to be difficult to be done in one of the London constituencies.

The National Association of Journalists on Saturday, with only two dissentients, agreed that their body should be colour-blind as to sex. We regret that there was even one member who proposed to impose disabilities upon women. Before very long it will seem as absurd to make special regulations against women doing this, that, or the other, as it is now seen to be absurd to impose disabilities upon those who cannot accept the prevailing Shibboleth in religion. Our grandchildren will no more think of saying women shall not try to do what they feel competent to do than we should think of saying that no red-haired man shall hold office in the State.

If it be correct that Dr. Kauffmann has discovered a method of converting petroleum into solid fuel which burns slowly without smoke, and with only 2 per cent. of cinder, petroleum stands revealed more clearly than ever as the fuel of the future. Dr. Kauffmann's method is very simple. He heats the petroleum, and mixes with it from 1 to 3 per cent. of soap. When the mixture cools it solidifies in a mass which looks like cement and feels like tallow. It is not stated whether the solid petroleum burns without smell. For domestic use that is indispensable.

Our travelling Commissioner writes:—"Now that Lord Lansdowne is on his way home and to India from his Canadian Governor-Generalship, I may perhaps say one or two words which I should have sent from Canada, had I not known that his Excellency preferred that his personality should not be mixed up in any way with his official position. Namely, that so far as my observation went no man who has ever occupied the difficult position of Governor-General, not even excepting Lord Dufferin, who was a head and shoulders above anybody else, has left so favourable an impression of home statesmanship upon the Canadian people, or has succeeded so well in holding the balance true, with equal knowledge and dignity, between conflicting Canadian interests on the one hand, and between Canadian and Imperial interests on the other. For nearly five months I travelled over Canada from Quebec to Vancouver, and I can honestly say that I do not remember to have heard during that time (except from members of the National League) a single word of complaint or criticism directed against Lord Lansdowne, but very many in praise of his tact and his remarkable knowledge of Canadian affairs. The Canadians are a quick-witted and sharp-tongued people when they consider themselves neglected or injured, and this unanimity of respect and goodwill is therefore extraordinary. Anybody who had ever been at Government House, Ottawa I found more than friendly—enthusiastic, in fact, and no wonder, for Lady Lansdowne

makes as many friends and admirers as she receives guests, and the official members of his Excellency's household were all capital fellows, each of them a little centre of local interest and liking. So long as we have men like Lord Lansdowne to occupy its high posts, no danger will come to the Empire from the inside at any rate."

We read in the *Daily Telegraph* to-day the following passage:—

The present Minister, M. Vishnegradsky, came into office pledged to bring about a Budget equilibrium, but he, too, failed, as his predecessors had done, and for a similar reason; he could not check the growing expenditure on the army and navy.

Now we would like to ask the editor of the *Daily Telegraph* a simple question. Here he gives as the central dominating fact of the financial situation in Russia "the growing expenditure on the army and navy." Would he be surprised to hear that in Russia since the present Emperor came to the throne that the military expenditure has not only not grown, but has actually diminished? As this is the simple fact, what is the leading article worth which is based avowedly on an assumption exactly contrary to the fact?

The German Emperor has just given another proof that he is Prince Bismarck's disciple in small things as well as in great. It appears that notwithstanding all the efforts of German "purists" to free the language from foreign words, the bill of fare at Court dinners was still given in French. Last week, however, the officers who were invited by the Emperor to a "galadiner" at the Imperial palace were surprised to see that below the Imperial eagle on the menu cards the names of the various dishes were all given in German. The *Kölnische Zeitung* is highly delighted with this progress in the purification of the language, but curiously enough it ignores the fact that neither "galadiner" nor "pularden" are words of German origin, both of which occur in the paragraphs in which the eulogy of pure German is pronounced. It is, by the way, interesting to observe the simplicity of the bill of fare at the "galadiner," which compares favourably with the sumptuous "gala" déjeuner which President Carnot gave a few days ago at the Sous-Préfecture at Havre.

We really cannot feel much sympathy with Mr. Seale Hayne, M.P., for his arbitrary detention at Mulhausen, for he blundered against the light. When the vexatious passport regulations were first made by the German Government, it was pointed out over and over again for the benefit of English tourists that there were two lines from Belfort to Bale, one of which does, and the other of which does not, pass through German territory. Mr. Hayne went passport-less by the German line, when he ought to have gone by the Franco-Swiss one: of course therefore he suffered. Members of Parliament must not expect to be safer than other individuals when they wilfully go into the lion's den. Mr. Seale Hayne may be right in denouncing "idiotic exercises of arbitrary power;" but as a good Home Ruler he ought to have known that the best defence against such things is the boycott. "Boycott Mulhausen and take up with Delle" should be the tourists' Plan of Campaign.

The outcome of all the interviews and letters from African authorities in the papers this morning is that Tippoo Tib is quite certainly not a traitor, and that Stanley is almost certainly not dead. As for the latter point, Sir Samuel Baker thinks the delay in hearing from Stanley the most natural thing in the world; while M. de Brazza dwells on the impossibility of Stanley's expedition coming to grief without definite news coming to hand. The argument about Tippoo Tib is more direct and satisfactory. Captain Vangele, who has just arrived from the Congo, points out that Tippoo's duty fortunately coincided with his interest, for he was only to be paid for the expenses he had incurred in fitting out Major Barttelot's caravan if it proved successful. That was an excellent hostage for Tippoo's good behaviour, and his loyalty is itself the best argument for Stanley's safety.

"Why," asks a correspondent, "does not the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals send an occasional spy to the monkey-house at the Zoological Gardens? The intense cruelty involved in some people's sense of 'fun' certainly deserves to be made an example of, and the quaint little *homunculus* is often worse treated in the well-tended monkey-house than when perambulating the streets with an organ-man, who may indeed whip and pinch it when its spirits flag, but would protect it for his own sake against worse injuries from others. The keeper may do his best, but he is not ubiquitous, especially on 'big days,' Mondays, and bank holidays. These beautiful, docile little oddities provide so much amusement for the public that no menagerie is complete without the monkeys. They are very affectionate and fond of man, and is he to repay the pleasure they give him by thoughtless torture? 'Many a good monkey,' says an experienced keeper, 'has had its teeth broken by the sticks of ignorant

visitors, and not a few receive internal abdominal injuries under which they pine away and die, defying the efforts of their keepers to guess at the cause of illness, or the possible remedy to bring them back to health and vivacity.' The commonest and cruellest practice of giving the monkeys nutshells filled with cayenne pepper in order to enjoy the fun of seeing their distress is one which might be checked by a single prosecution. Not long ago I saw a poor 'Bonnet' monkey sitting scraping its little tongue in order to get the cruel burning off with its nails, in the same pain, though more silent, which the same trick would have caused a child. It is quite time that thoughtless injuries to rare animals—valued, by the by, at from 25s. to £30 apiece—should be dealt with as are, very properly, cruelties to horses, asses, dogs, and cats, even when done through ignorance."

Can any good thing come out of Dublin Castle? Apparently it really can, for M. Paul Barbier, of the South Wales University College, after condemning the injudicious selection of French books made for the Oxford and Cambridge local examination, "observes with gratification the list of text-books the Assistant Commissioners to the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland have published this year." M. Barbier specifies the "risky" books prescribed by Oxford and Cambridge—namely, Ludovic Halévy's "L'Abbé Constantin" and Thierry's "Récits des Temps Mérovingiens;" but he does not tell us what the "safe" books selected in Ireland are. This is a pity. It is always better to preach the good than denounce the bad.

Here is a bitter cry from a reviewer who is exasperated at the long continuance of the silly season in the publishing trade:—

Have — or — been yet disposed of? If not, I should be glad to get them as a relief to the slow murder of the cursed parcels of rubbish with which you blast my prime. Surely it must be dawning on editors at last that any sort of live copy is better than the mechanical literary stuff poured out on ordinary novels and minor poetry. Why condemn me to read things that I can't review—that no artistic conscience could long survive the reviewing of! Why don't you begin notices of boots, hats, dogcarts and so on? They would be fifty times as useful and interesting as reviews of the last novel by Miss Braddon, who is a princess among novel manufacturers. There ought to be legislation against this sort of thing—on the lines of the Factory Acts. I believe the mortality in hospitals is perceptibly increased by the books distributed through reviewers by the Kyrle Society.

The personal industry of French Ministers affords a lesson in practical politics which ought not to be neglected. The Minister of Marine himself went to inspect the recent embarkation of the Fleet. M. Freycinet, the War Minister, is energetically campaigning with the various military manoeuvres, under the guidance of an experienced staff of generals. M. Floquet, as we know, was ready, like Lord John Russell, to take the fleet into action. Meanwhile, Cabinet Councils are almost of weekly occurrence, and Ministers are hard at work threshing out economical and social problems for the parliamentary session. Yet our high and mighty officials, with autumn vacations and Scotch moors, never cease to parade their over-burdensome duties, and Mr. Balfour, in the airy Chief Secretary's Lodge, playing the nonchalant despot, is looked upon as a martyr.

A VISIT TO THE "PRINCE-BISHOP OF THE EAST."

PASSAGES FROM M. DE LAVELEYE'S NOTE-BOOKS.

IN view of the news of the sensation which has been caused by the breach between the Emperor of Austria and the famous Croatian prelate and patriot, Bishop Strossmayer, a special interest attaches to the following description of a visit to the Bishop by M. Emile de Laveleye:—

Having accepted the kind invitation of Bishop Strossmayer to visit the zadrugas upon his estate, I went straight from Vienna to Essek. When I got out of the train I saw a young priest coming towards me, followed by a magnificent pandour dressed in brown pantaloons and jacket covered with red and black braid. The Abbé is a secretary of Bishop Strossmayer, from whom he brought a letter of welcome. This priest, accompanied by his hussars, is a picture of Hungary in the olden time, when the Magnates kept a whole army of servants, who waited upon them in time of peace, and followed them to the battle-field in time of war. These were the famous hussars who saved the crown of Maria Theresa (*Mortiamur pro rege nostro*), and who, in 1848, would have dethroned her descendants but for the intervention of Russia. A light open victoria was waiting for us outside the station, drawn by four dappled greys of the breed of Lipitca, the Imperial stud, which is situated near Trieste in the Karst, that strange region where the great scattered rocks resemble the ruins of some cyclopean edifice.

We entered the court of the Bishop's palace. I was overpowered with emotion at again seeing this noble old man—the great apostle of the Jugo-Slavs. He embraced me affectionately and said: "Friend and brother, you are welcome here; you are among friends and brethren." He took me to my room and told me to rest until supper to recover from the fatigue of the night in the train. The room I occupied was very large; the furniture, tables, sofas, drawers, all very large, were of walnut wood in the Viennese style. Through the open window I saw a park full of fine trees—oaks, beech, and pine trees. A large acacia, quite covered with its clusters of drooping white flowers, filled the air with its spreading fragrance. Before a nice greenhouse a large quantity

of all kinds of exotic plants were placed; they were watered every evening by the gardeners. Nothing reminded me that I was in the depths of Slavonia.

A POWERFUL PERSONALITY.

This extraordinary man made a profound impression upon me. I will repeat some details of this interview, because Strossmayer's policy is that of the most enlightened patriot of his country. He appeared to me like a saint of the Middle Ages, such as Fra Angelico painted on the walls of the cells of San Marco in Florence. His face was refined, thin, ascetic; his light hair, brushed back, surrounded his head like a halo; his grey eyes were clear, luminous, inspired. A sharp yet gentle flame beamed from them, the reflection of a great intellect and a noble heart. His speech is easy, glowing, full of imagery; but although he speaks French, German, Italian, and Latin, besides the Slav languages with equal ease, no one of these dialects can furnish him with terms sufficiently expressive for the complete rendering of his thought, and so he uses them by turns. He takes from each the word, the epithet, he needs or he even uses the synonyms that come from them all. It is when he finally arrives at Latin that his sentences flow with unequalled breadth and power. He says precisely what he thinks, without reticence, without diplomatic reserve with the abandon of a child, and the insight of genius. Entirely devoted to his country, desiring nothing for himself, he fears no one here below; as he seeks only what he believes to be good, just, and true, he has nothing to conceal.

FOR FAITH AND COUNTRY.

The first ten years of his episcopate were spent under the Minister Bach. A great effort was then made to centralize all the parts of the Empire, and to Germanize the different races. Strossmayer thoroughly understood, and it is this which gives him everlasting glory, that to defeat all such attempts the national sentiment must be aroused and strengthened by intellectual culture by the development of literature, and by a return to the historic traditions of the nation. The motto which he chose, and which is not in Latin as customary, but in Croat, sums up the work of his life, "*Sve za vjeru i domovinu*" ("Everything for faith and country"). His whole life has been consecrated to its translation into acts beneficial to his country. At first he gave large sums to found scholarships, so that the sons of poor parents might be able to study the humanities. He thus endowed almost all the Croat colleges; among others, those of Essek, Varasdin, Fiume, Vinkovce, Seny, Gospitch, and, later, the University of Agram. At Djakovo itself his gifts towards education are unceasing and considerable.

An enthusiast for art, he goes to Italy to admire its marvels and to bring back some specimens every time that he requires rest for the sake of his health. All the institutions, all the publications, all the literary men who have occupied themselves with Croatia, have received his generous support.

CHARACTER OF A PATRIOT PRELATE.

In religion Strossmayer is a Christian according to the Gospel, an adversary of intolerance, a friend of liberty, of enlightenment, of progress in all forms, entirely devoted to his people, and especially to the poor. It is not forgotten with what energy and eloquence he contested the new dogma of Papal Infallibility. Latterly he has been endeavouring to bring about a reconciliation between the Eastern and Western Churches. Two of his last Lenten charges (1881, 1882) have been devoted to an exposition of his views on this subject. It is certainly under his inspiration that the Vatican has recently exalted the two great apostles of the Slavs, St. Cyril and St. Methodius, whom the Eastern Church specially venerates. In Strossmayer we admire the virtues of the saint, with the tastes of the artist. All selfish feeling is crushed out, no egotism and no ambition; his life is a daily devotion, he has no thought which is not for the good of his fellows and the future of his country. Who has ever done more than he for the reawakening of a nationality, and with so much insight and efficacy? Among the noble figures who in this age bring honour to humanity, I do not know his superior. Croatia may be proud of her son.

STROSSMAYER'S OPINION OF MR. GLADSTONE.

We reached the deer park. It is part of the ancient forest, saved from the axe of the clearers and wood merchants. It is surrounded with high palisades to keep out the wolves, which are still very numerous in this country. The strong branches of the large oaks form a dome like the arches of a cathedral. In the green glades the deer are passing, going to drink at springs hidden under the large leaves of the colts-foot. Man respects this sanctuary, where Nature appears in her majesty and primitive grace. Whilst we wandered about in the shadow of the great trees, the Bishop said: "The man whom I most desire to meet is Gladstone. We have several times exchanged letters. He wishes success to my work here; but I have had no time to visit him in England. What I admire and venerate in Gladstone is that in all his policy he is guided by love of humanity and justice, by respect for the rights even of the weak. When he braved the opinion of England, always favourable to the Turks, to defend with the most persuasive eloquence the cause of our poor Bulgarian brothers, we blessed him from the bottom of our heart. This is the policy dictated by Christianity. Gladstone is a true Christian. Oh, if all Ministers were so, what a radiant future of peace and harmony would dawn on our unhappy race!"

"DEAR OLD AUSTRIA."

In 1878 M. de Laveleye met the Bishop at the table of the Italian statesman Minghetti, and Dr. Strossmayer there spoke of the Russophobic feeling which misrepresented him, then as in the present case, as being "the friend of Austria's enemy, Russia." "This," he said, "is a calumny":—

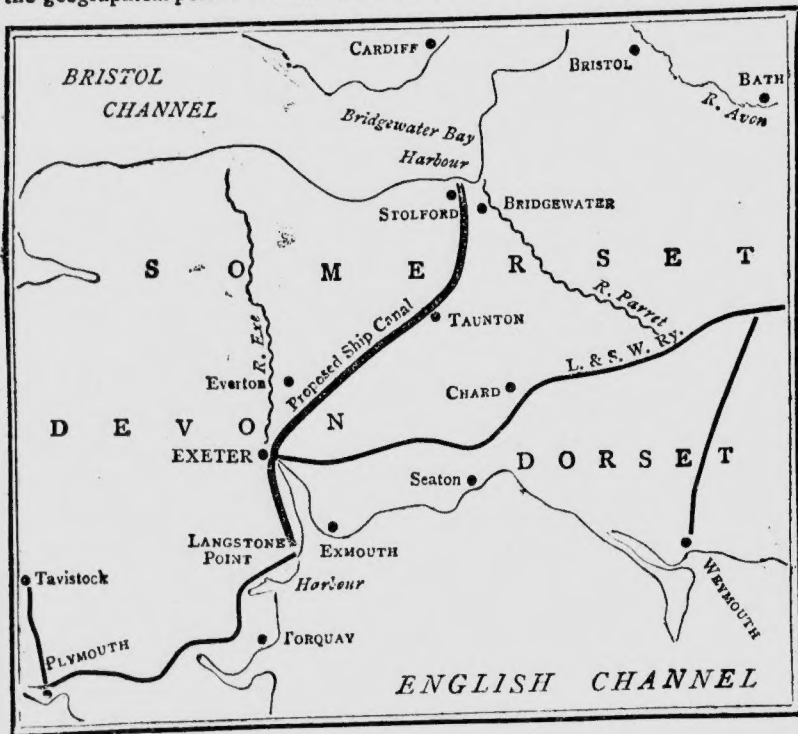
"For our dear old Austria I would give my life at once. It is in her bosom that we Western Slavs ought to live and grow to attain our destiny. Some years ago at Vienna they wished to Germanize us. To-day at Pesth they dream of Magyarizing us—that is equally impossible. It is impossible to take away language and nationality from a numerous race, occupying extensive contiguous territory, where there is room for thirty or forty millions of people. Those who would attempt it, or would arrest our legitimate development, are the only ones who work for Russia.

"This fancy in favour of Russia has disappeared. Only it returns every time that Austro-Hungary, either on the borders of the Save and the Bosna or beyond the Danube, endeavours to oppose the legitimate development of the Slav races. If they are driven to extremities, they will inevitably cry unanimously, 'Rather the Russians than the Magyars.' Listen, my friend, there are two great European questions: the question of nationalities and the social question. We must raise the depressed peoples and the disinherited classes. Christianity brings the solution, for it commands us to help the humble and poor. We are all brethren, but the brotherhood, instead of being merely a word, must become a fact."

Further details of this remarkable man, his life, his work, and his surroundings, are given by M. de Laveleye in his interesting work on the "Balkan Peninsula," Chapter II., from which these extracts are taken.

THE PROPOSED GREAT WESTERN SHIP CANAL.

THE present appears to be the renaissance period of canals. There is a very wide demand for the improvement and extension of the water communications of the country, of which the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal is the most notable instance. One of the latest projects is that of Mr. Owen, of 27, John-street, Bedford-row, for the union of the English and Bristol Channels by a ship canal from Bridgewater Bay to the estuary of the Exe. The proposal is not now made for the first time, Rennie and Telford having projected such a scheme, and Mr. Owen himself having unsuccessfully advocated it many years ago, besides which there is a rival project in the field. Mr. Owen does not adopt the line of canal suggested by the eminent engineers named, which would necessitate a large number of locks. He places the northern harbour at Stolford, at the north-east angle of Bridgewater Bay; and the direction of the canal from thence is via Combwich, Bridgewater, Taunton, Wellington, Burlescombe, Stoke Canon, Culmpton, and Exeter; thence along the shores of the Exe to Langstone Point, on the west side of Exmouth Bight, where the southern harbour will be established. The district thus briefly sketched presents, in Mr. Owen's opinion, unusual facilities for canalization. The only considerable elevation encountered is White Ball Hill, 536 ft. in height, a spur of the Blackdown range, which forms the principal watershed of that part of the country. This hill, pierced by the Bristol and Exeter Railway, can, however, be turned. The old Grand Western Canal, some portions of which still remain, makes the circuit of the hill, and it is intended to follow the same course. The summit level of the route will be attained at Grinham Barton, in the adjacent valley, and the deepest cutting will be less than 200 ft. A distinguishing feature of the scheme is the utilization of existing canals. Parliamentary powers would be sought to acquire so much of the Bridgewater and Taunton and Grand Western Canals, or their sites, as will be needed for the new undertaking. The floating basin at Exeter, with its canal, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, to the Exe, now available for ships of 300 to 400 tons, will, when widened and deepened, be incorporated *en bloc*. Thus much as regards the route, the geographical position of which is shown on the accompanying map.



The canal will be on the level of the sea, taking its supply chiefly from that source, with sea-locks only at each end. The dimensions will be: length, 62 miles; width at surface, 125 feet; at bottom, 36 feet; and depth, 21 feet. These are the figures of the Grand Ship Canal of Holland from Amsterdam to the Helder, which admits loaded vessels of 1,000 to 1,500 tons, drawing 18 feet.

With respect to trade results, Mr. Owen looks for an immense traffic in coal, iron, minerals, timber, raw materials, manufactured goods, and agricultural products. Taking coal alone, a large revenue would be derived from that source. The South Wales and adjacent coalfields form the largest deposit of the mineral in England; it is comparatively unworked, and it is assumed that the greater portion of the southern counties will, by means of the canal and its low charges, eventually derive their supply of fuel from that source. At present, however, owing to the long sea voyage and the cost of railway transit, Welsh coal, although equal in most respects to North-country and inland coal, and better for steam purposes, is almost unknown in those counties. As regards the metropolis itself, which, by sea at least, is almost shut off from South Wales, the present annual supply from the Principality is only one-fifteenth of the total of about four million tons of sea-borne coal; but when by the direct water route the passage round Land's End is avoided, and the western collieries are brought within 355 miles of London, or equidistant with those on the North-east coast, this enormous discrepancy will be greatly diminished, and it is believed that the capital will absorb nearly two million tons of Welsh coal, or about one-half of the total coal shipments. It would be chiefly used in the manufacturing and shipping districts, and could be delivered in the Thames for foreign export, for coaling steam-vessels, and at the river-side, more cheaply than by railway. According to Mr. Owen's calculations, the scheme could be carried through for a capital expenditure of £3,080,000, and, taking the receipts from the conveyance of coal alone, he shows a net income of £374,000, or over 12 per cent. per annum on the capital outlay.

At Home and Abroad.

The Sultan of Zanzibar, with the German Consul, is striving to restore order at Pangani and Tanga, where no Europeans can yet land.

A new line of telegraph will very shortly be laid down in Central Asia, between Khiva and Chardjui on the Amu Daria.

It is reported from Upper Burmah that the local myoke, or native magistrate, of Mogoung has been murdered in his house by a party of Kachyens.

Owing to the recent heavy rainfall, extensive inundations have occurred in Lower Burmah. In Pegu 20,000 acres of paddy land are inundated.

With reference to the *Clan Fraser*, steamer, reported from Bimlipatam on Friday as having broken her shaft, it is stated that the vessel has spare shafts on board, which will be fitted, and she will proceed shortly.

Josef Hoffman has been recruiting his health at Eisenach. A fresh contract has been entered into with Mr. Abbey, and Hoffman will start on tour again in November. He will probably appear in England next year.

On Friday evening a large part of the roof of the Ash Pit, Berry-hill Colliery, near Hanley, fell in, and two miners named George Leese and George Evans were crushed to death. They were completely buried in the mass.

At Messrs. Brunner, Mord, and Co.'s chemical works, Northwich, on Saturday, an engineman named Cross was caught by his clothes in the machinery and so shockingly injured that death soon ensued.

A special race arranged by the Eastern Yacht Club took place on Friday off Marblehead Rock, Massachusetts. The English cutter *Bayadere* proved the best boat in the heavy cross sea that prevailed, and won easily.

The accounts received of the murder of Mr. Dalgleish in April last show that there were two or three persons in the tent with Dad Mahomed Khan, the actual murderer. One of these has been captured and taken into Ladakh.

M. Djuvra, the new Roumanian Diplomatic Agent to Bulgaria, has arrived at Sophia. After presenting his credentials he will be received in audience by Prince Ferdinand.

By the request of M. Goblet, the French Admiralty has ordered the men-of-war in East African waters to chase all slave-ships, no matter under what flag they may be, and to pursue with especial energy any which may be flying French colours.

The members of the League of Patriots held a demonstration in Paris yesterday, at the foot of the Belfort statue. M. Dérouté, who was among the speakers, demanded a revision of the Treaty of Frankfurt and of the French Constitution. The meeting passed off without disturbance.

It is reported that a Greek squadron will probably be ordered to cruise off the Turkish islands in the Aegean Sea, to protect the interests of the Greek sponge merchants, who allege that the Turkish authorities treat them in an arbitrary manner.

The streets of Mexico are still flooded, but the weather is clearing up. On Saturday the birthday anniversary of President Diaz was generally observed by the public. A monster petition was presented to the President asking him to discharge the imprisoned editors.

Giovanni Comis, employed as an assistant "duster" for the stalls at the Italian Exhibition, was on Saturday brought before Mr. Paget, at Hammer-smith police-court, on the charge of stealing several valuable articles from the cases of exhibitors, and committed for trial.

Henry Kerr, manager of the New Crane Wharf, Wapping, has been remanded from the Thames police-court by Mr. Lushington on the charge of stealing a quantity of gutta percha and indiarubber, the property of Messrs. Hettenbach Brothers and others, merchants, of Fenchurch-street.

Three brothers—Mark, John, and Thomas Hollely—were yesterday shot at in the street at Workop by an old man named Caudwell. Mark Hollely was wounded severely in the shoulder, and a bullet glanced off the forehead of John. Thomas was unhurt.

Mr. Justice Wilson, who has been appointed president of the Special Commission for the trial of Mr. Crawford at Poonah, is said to be one of the ablest judges in India, and his appointment will, it is believed, greatly strengthen the Commission in public estimation.

Queen Nathalie met with a very cordial reception from the King and Queen of Roumania on her arrival at Sinaia. King Charles received her Majesty at the railway station in person, and accompanied her to the castle. Queen Nathalie left on Saturday for several days' stay at Jassy.

Last Wednesday the ferry steamer plying between Calcutta and Howrah collided with a floating crane and sank in mid-stream. The number of deaths has not yet been ascertained, but the steamer carried a large number of passengers.

A special Turkish Embassy will probably be sent by the Sultan to greet the Tzar during his tour in the Caucasus. This mission would be entrusted to Chakin Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador to Russia, who would proceed first to Constantinople and return thence to meet the Tzar, accompanied by the Sultan's Aides-de-Camp and Secretaries.

A body of troops yesterday attacked, between Dubnitsa and Samakoff, a band of brigands who recently carried off three persons, and a severe fight ensued, in which the leader of the band was killed and another wounded and taken prisoner, the remainder escaping to the mountains. The captives were rescued, but one who had been wounded by the brigands has since died.

A Waterford telegram states that a few evenings ago an attempt was made to wreck a train on the Waterford and Limerick Railway. The gates were taken off at a crossing and placed across the rails with a quantity of timber from a labourer's cottage. Fortunately the guard in front of the engine pushed the obstruction off the rails, and the train passed on safely.

There have been two more cases exhibiting the evils of child-marriage in India. In one, a girl wife, aged eleven, was branded with red-hot irons by her mother-in-law. In the other, a girl aged eleven, of good position, was found dead, her throat having been cut with a razor. Her husband alleges that she committed suicide, but the matter is being investigated.

Clapham Liberalism is looking up. A new and handsome club, the Clapham Reform Club, will open its doors on October 1st. An outlay of nearly £4,000 has been incurred, and the club will have a fine hall capable of holding 500 people, billiard rooms, library, &c. Already about 300 members have joined.

A meeting of volunteers and others interested in the new Wimbledon question was held on Saturday at Edinburgh, under the presidency of Mr. Gow, secretary of the Edinburgh Rifle Association. Lord Wemyss was among the speakers, and a resolution was adopted expressing the opinion that the site for the future meetings of the National Rifle Association should be as near London as possible.

A REBELLION IN SAMOA.

Advices received in Auckland, New Zealand, from Samoa state that rebellion has broken out there owing to Herr Branders having made an attempt to induce the natives to confer on Tamasese, the present King, the name of Malietoa, and also on account of the excessive taxation to which the people are subjected by the existing Government.

Herr Branders placed himself at the head of a body of Samoans loyal to King Tamasese and went out to meet the rebels, whom he encountered in the bush. In the conflict which ensued seven of the supporters of Tamasese and three of the rebels were killed, while the number of wounded on both sides was large. Herr Branders's force now numbers 1,400 men. A thousand Savaii natives have flocked to the camp of the partisans of the dethroned King Malietoa, bringing their total effective up to 3,000 men.

The ultimate deposition of Tamasese is regarded as inevitable, says the telegram, unless support is rendered him by the Germans.

The *Times* devotes a leading article to the state of affairs in Samoa, and in summarizing recent events in the island, says:—

Rather more than a week ago a telegram from Berlin announced that Malietoa, the ex-King of Samoa, had been released from captivity, and was about to return to his native land. Hardly have people ceased to wonder what this move on the part of Prince Bismarck portends, when news arrives that an insurrection is in progress in Samoa against the new King Tamasese, and that it promises to be successful unless the Germans interfere vigorously on behalf of their nominee. Malietoa was deposed by an armed force of Germans in August of last year, and, according to report, was exiled to New Guinea. Tamasese, his rival of long-standing for the sovereignty of the Samoan group of islands, was created King in his place. But the position of this puppet became precarious as soon as the German ironclads left Apia. In the days before Malietoa's deposition, Tamasese had never been more than a rebel, incapable of making head against Malietoa, and only shielded from his vengeance by German influence. The proceedings of the King and of the German Agent have not been calculated to win popularity for the new dynasty. One step in particular on the part of Herr Branders seems to have provoked much resentment among the clansmen of Malietoa. He caused the ruler whom the majority of the Samoans probably regard as a usurper to assume the hereditary name of Malietoa, thus wounding the tender sentiments of the old loyalists. Oppressive taxation, besides, has led to overflowing the cup of Tamasese's offending, and the result of it is a full-blown insurrection, in which the insurgents have more than held their own, and are twice as numerous as the force of the Government.

"WATCHING EACH OTHER" AT SIKKIM.

There is no news of importance from Sikkim. The opposing forces are still engaged in watching one another's movements at a safe distance. The heavy rains continue, and render active operations difficult. In the event of an advance, no tents or followers will be permitted to accompany the troops. Officers will be restricted to baggage not exceeding 20 lb. weight each, and each private soldier will have a greatcoat, two blankets, and a waterproof sheet. The Tibetans are engaged in fortifying the Natula Pass. The walls have been strengthened and further protected by traps.

This intelligence is supplemented by a telegram from a *Daily News* correspondent, who says: "Another small affair has taken place on the Nimla Ridge between a patrol of Ghorkhas and a foraging party of Tibetans. The encounter resulted in the capture of two of the enemy, another being killed, without any loss on our side. The Tibetans show no desire to fight, but run away when they can."

PRESIDENT CARNOT AND M. FLOQUET.

President Carnot returned on Saturday to Fontainebleau. On leaving Elbœuf he gave 2,400 f. for various charitable objects. The mayor introduced to him a nun who has been a teacher there for sixty-two years, and M. Carnot shook hands with and complimented her. He visited a great army tailoring establishment, where he gave a medal to an old employé, whose colleagues handed the President a bouquet. M. Boulet introduced him to his "woolly" dogs, which are shorn like sheep, and promised to send the President a shooting jacket made of their wool. At Vernon two little girls offered bouquets, and at Gaillon the boys of the reformatory presented arms. At Achères a dozen roughs shouted "Vive Boulanger!" This cry has scarcely been heard in Normandy, which is partly Reactionary, partly Republican, but not Boulangist. M. Floquet had a little cheering here and there (says the correspondent of the *Times*), but was in general ignored; and he is said to have been displeased at being a supernumerary. M. Carnot, however, naturally declines to put forward or identify himself with a subordinate, who is dependent on any chance parliamentary coalition. The next Presidential visit will be paid to Dijon and Lyons next month.

SIGNOR CRISPI'S ASSURANCE.

Signor Crispi has sent assurances to M. Félix Pyat of his friendliness to France. This seems singular (says a correspondent), but it happened in this way:—Signor Crispi received a letter signed "Pyat," reminding him how French and Italian proscriptions fraternized in old times, and advocating renewed friendship between France and Italy. The letter was a forgery; but, ignorant of this fact, Signor Crispi directed Signor Ressimann, of the Italian Embassy, to assure M. Pyat that he is not, and never has been, the enemy of any neighbouring country, least of all of France; that he will never enter on an offensive war; and that his policy is defensive, and one of liberty.

CONFLICTING ACCOUNT FROM AFGHANISTAN.

The latest reports from Afghanistan are conflicting (says the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*). The unsettled condition of affairs there renders it doubtful whether the despatch of the Cabul mission will not be indefinitely postponed. The telegraphic despatch received from Teheran, stating that Ishak Khan was marching on Cabul, requires confirmation. According to the latest official news received in India, Ishak Khan was at Kanabad, and the troops sent forward by him in the direction of Cabul had not crossed the confines of his province. At Kamard, on the northern slopes of the Hindoo Koosh, they were confronted by the Ameer's troops and defeated.

The latest despatches received from the Kurum Valley Mission are to the effect that so far all had gone well. A permanent camp was to be pitched at Buraki, and a meeting was then to take place with the Afghan representatives. The Deputy Commissioner of Kohat represents the Indian Government. His escort consists of 400 native Indian soldiers. Sherindil Khan, the Afghan representative, is said to be escorted by three cavalry and four infantry regiments, with eight guns. The object of this mission is to settle the disputes which have arisen between Indian and Afghan subjects on the frontier.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Daily News* states that "two columns of the Ameer's troops are rapidly advancing on Iskhak Khan, who is at Khanabad. The Kamard Fort, which has been captured, was held by 700 rebels."

DEATH OF PRINCE SCHWARZENBERG.

Prince John Adolphus Schwarzenberg died on Saturday at his palace of Frauenberg, near Budweis, aged eighty-nine. The deceased nobleman was the son of Princess Pauline Schwarzenberg, who perished in the fire at the Austrian Embassy in Paris during the ball given on the occasion of the marriage of Napoleon with the Archduchess Marie Louise in 1810. Prince John was married in 1830 to Princess Eleonora von Lichtenstein, a lady of great beauty, who died in 1873, leaving two children. He was the richest landowner in Austria, and the fortune which he leaves is reckoned at nearly ten millions sterling. His estates in Lower Austria, Bohemia, Styria, and Salzburg cover more than fifty English square miles. At the Exhibition of 1873 a special section was devoted to the products of these estates, and they were so various and abundant that it passed into a joke to call them products of the "Kingdom of Schwarzenberg." Prince John was the first Austrian nobleman who undertook manufacturing on a large scale with the produce of his lands. Spirits, champagne, sugar, woollens, and metal goods were all made upon his lands in factories of his own, which are models of their kind, and which he kept under his direct personal supervision. The administration of his domains was like the government of a grand duchy. His servants and dependants were numbered by thousands, and he had established a training college for young men who wished to enter his service as clerks or overseers. All his retainers, including every servant in his household, were born on his land. Here he was master, and he brooked no trifling in the relations between himself and his dependants. None of these would have ventured to approach him without kissing his hand. He expected them to be Catholics like himself, and to abstain from politics of every kind. If they were not pleased with these conditions they could go. At the same time the Prince was a just and intelligent master. Few men in Europe understood the management of land as he did, and his advice was always being consulted by other landowners in his country. Prince John was for many years very intimate with Prince William of Prussia, afterwards the Emperor William I. This intimacy was broken off by the events of 1866. But some years afterwards the Emperor, meeting the Prince at Gastein, accosted him with the words "Well, how goes it, Monte Negro?"—a play upon the words Schwarz Berg. "It is no longer Monte Negro, sire, but Mont Blanc," said the Prince, uncovering his white head. Without being open-handed, Prince Schwarzenberg could be liberal for deserving objects, and when he gave he did so grandly, as became a prince. There is a good story of his having given a plausible beggar a thousand florin note with the remark, "If your story be true, ten kreutzers will not help you, but this note may; and if you are an honest man you will treat it as a loan."

ISSUE OF FRESH PAPER MONEY IN RUSSIA.

A very important financial measure has just been made public in St. Petersburg, consisting of an Imperial ukase, dated July 20th last, granting power to the Minister of Finance to issue fresh paper money through the State Bank whenever it is actually necessary to increase the circulating medium; and in virtue of this decree an order of the Minister of Finance is announced for the issue of 15,000,000 more of paper roubles upon the guarantee of the same amount of gold, at nominal value, to be delivered from the funds of the Treasury into the coffers of the Imperial Bank. The reason for this measure is the want of sufficient circulating currency, caused by the enormous and unprecedented grain-export business of this year, and the consequent unusual drain upon the resources of the State Bank. The new paper issue is altogether a temporary one, guaranteed by its actual metallic equivalent, to be conveyed to the bank by the Treasury, in the presence of the usual official and commercial delegates, and it is to be destroyed gradually as the necessity for it disappears. The gold guarantee is also to be returned to the Treasury as the paper is withdrawn from circulation and burnt. In order to allay any possible fear that the Government has changed, or intends to change, its avowed policy of gradually withdrawing and destroying the 266,000,000 roubles' worth of paper money issued without its gold equivalent during the last Turkish war, it is expressly stated that the present temporary inflation, which is to be regarded as a sign of commercial prosperity, will in no way affect the two decrees of 1881 and 1887, whereby the rest of the unguaranteed notes are to be gradually removed from circulation. The new issue is purely for commercial necessities.

MURDERS IN A RAJAH'S PALACE.

A serious crime has been perpetrated in the palace of the Rajah of Manipuri. He had recently taken into his service a dewan named Buldeo Singh. During the night some persons entered this dewan's room and killed him, as well as a woman who was with him, with tulwars. The woman, who was found just at her last breath, gasped out the names of certain servants of the household, and these have been arrested. No other important evidence has yet been discovered.

MR. EDISON'S MUSICAL PHONOGRAMS.

Mr. Edison has ordered a purchase of specimen musical instruments of every description manufactured in Europe, each to be of the undoubtedly best quality, and to be selected by the highest musical authorities; the instruments thus selected are to be performed upon in the presence of the phonograph by the best musicians obtainable. Phonograms of music thus made are to be sent to Mr. Edison. The musical record in each case to be preceded by the name of the composition, the address of its publisher, and the name of the performer, to be followed by the name of the manufacturer and the price of the instrument. The instruments adopted after these tests will be employed to make phonograms in every variety and in large numbers for the purpose of furnishing phonogram cabinets, which will be sent out to all parts of the world with the phonograph. The first of these "music mills" will be established in England under the superintendence of a well-known musical director to be appointed by Colonel Gouraud, whose agent is already engaged in finding suitable premises in some central part of London. All new music worthy of reproduction will be thus phonographically published. Already some hundreds of thousands of phonograms are on order.

THE DRINK RECORD OF AMERICA.

It appears from the figures for the fiscal year 1887, which have just been published, that 717,748,854 gallons of malt liquor were consumed in the United States during the year. Nearly all this immense quantity was produced in America, only 2,300,000 gallons being imported. The *per capita* consumption now reaches 11.98 gallons, or nearly eight times what it was in 1860. The consumption of "hard liquors," on the contrary, has steadily decreased. Of distilled spirits, 71,064,733 gallons were used in 1887 less than in 1860, when the population was only half as large. It is stated that American beer has now almost completely taken the place of Medford rum and Kentucky whisky.

For FEUILLETON, see page 13.

FOURTH EDITION.

THE OPENING OF THE PARNELL COMMISSION.

PRELIMINARY SITTING TO-DAY.

HOW THE INQUIRY WILL BE CONDUCTED.

The proceedings in the preliminary meeting of the Parnell Commission commenced at eleven o'clock this morning before the Commissioners, in Probate Court No. 1. The arrangements were admirable, the Press finding their seats allocated in the body of the court, and all scrambling therefore was averted. Practically the whole body of the court was given up to the press and the counsel engaged in the case. Sir Charles Russell was the only Q.C. on the scene to-day. Mr. Picton, M.P., and Mr. G. W. Russell held an animated conversation before the arrival of the Commissioners on the seats adjoining the bench. The gallery was filled at an early hour. Mr. Timothy Healy has accepted a brief in the case. The other counsel who are to be with Sir Charles Russell on behalf of Mr. Parnell and the Irish members are Mr. R. T. Reid, Mr. Lockwood, and Mr. Asquith. Mr. Grahame represented the *Times*, the Attorney-General being out of town to-day. Mr. Philip Callan looked down upon the scene from the gallery, and Mr. Arthur O'Connor appeared among the junior counsel. The Commissioners came into the court exactly at eleven o'clock, Mr. Justice Day taking the seat on the right of Sir James Hannen, and Mr. Justice Smith on the left.

Sir James Hannen at once said: As the proceedings which we are about to enter upon are novel, it would be convenient that I should shortly state what we consider to be their scope and nature, and the principles on which we propose to conduct the inquiry. We derive our authority exclusively from the Act of Parliament recently passed entitled "A Special Commission Act, 1888," and by the first section of that Act we are directed to inquire into and report upon the charges and allegations made against certain members of Parliament and other persons in the course of the proceedings in the action entitled "O'Donnell against Walter and Another." The inquiry, therefore, is restricted both as to the persons and the charges and allegations. We have only to inquire into the allegations which were made in the course of the proceedings in the action named, and only those charges and allegations so far as they affect persons against whom they were directed in the course of those proceedings. Now as to our procedure: by the 2nd section of the Act the Legislature has given to us, in addition to the special powers herein-after provided, all such powers, rights, and privileges as are vested in her Majesty's High Court of Justice or in a judge thereof. As we have before us the defendants in the action "O'Donnell against Walter" and some other persons against whom the charges and allegations were directed, we propose, in the first instance, to conduct this inquiry as though it were an issue directly between those persons to try the truth or falsehood of the charges and allegations. We of course reserve to ourselves the power of calling before us any person who we may think may be able to throw light upon the issues involved, although neither of the parties interested may call such persons before us; but we shall proceed with the inquiry in the manner I have indicated judicially, and, as far as circumstances will permit, according to the rules of procedure and evidence which prevail in other courts of justice. The power which I have referred to of acting as a court or as any judge of the High Court of Justice can act in an action it will be observed is not given to us individually, but collectively. It is for that reason we are assembled here to-day in order to hear such applications as would in an ordinary action have been made to a judge in chambers, and we are therefore ready to hear such applications as to which notices have been given.

Sir Charles Russell then stated, in reply to Sir James Hannen, that with Mr. Asquith he appeared for the Irish Parliamentary party, eighty-four or eighty-five in number.

Sir James Hannen: That is a convenient mode of designating them, but I shall feel obliged if you put them down by name, but not now.

Sir Charles Russell: Certainly, my lord. I said for the purpose of the present application, because in later stages there might be a sub-division of labour, and I may not appear for all of them.

Sir James Hannen: Those persons whom you designate are represented by one solicitor?

Sir Charles Russell: Yes, my lord.

Mr. Grahame said he appeared, with his learned friend the Attorney-General, who was not now in town, for the defendant in the action of O'Donnell v. Walter—Mr. Walter, one of the proprietors, and the printer of the *Times* newspaper.

Mr. George Kebbell, solicitor, said he appeared for Mr. Maurice Moser, late Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department, Scotland-yard.

Sir James Hannen: Is he one of the persons against whom charges and allegations have been made?

Mr. Kebbell said the case might take such a turn.

Sir James Hannen: When it does take such a turn I will consider the application.

Sir Charles Russell: Your lordships propose to conduct the inquiry mainly upon the lines which would be followed if this were an issue between the parties. That involves the further question as to whom your lordships would expect to begin in opening the inquiry.

Sir James Hannen: I have consulted my learned friends on that point, and we desire to know if you have, on one side or the other, any views as to whom the right and duty fall upon.

Sir Charles Russell: If the analogy of an action for libel were followed, it would be the person charged, and so far as those I represent are concerned we have no wish upon the subject, but the natural order would appear to be that he who makes the accusation should begin.

Mr. Grahame: I have had no opportunity of considering this matter with the Attorney-General or those who instruct him. I was not aware the question would arise.

Sir James Hannen: It arises as a matter of convenience in order that the side which should begin should be prepared with witnesses when we next assemble.

Sir James Hannen, after some further conversation, said: I will at once

state what our view is. We have naturally considered this question. We thought it possible that the parties themselves might agree upon a course of procedure. It might have appeared desirable to both that, apart from the rules of law, one party should begin, and had there been concurrence, we should have thought it right to accede to it. If left to us to decide, it appears to us that it lies upon the defendants in the case O'Donnell v. Walter to tender such evidence as they have to support their charges.

It was further arranged that counsel should open with speeches on either side as in the case of an ordinary action. The court then proceeded to hear applications.

Mr. Grahame, in the first place, referred to alternative applications with regard to the discovery of certain letters and documents, to an application under the Bankers Act, and for leave to issue summonses for witnesses out of their jurisdiction. Mr. Grahame urged this point, that if the other side obtained these facilities he would make an application for similar facilities; the question was left for the decision of the court.

Sir Charles Russell then made five applications—(1), for inspection and photographs of certain alleged forged letters; (2), for the discovery of documents; (3), for particulars of the charges; (4), for a commission to examine witnesses in America; and (5), an order for the release of Mr. John Dillon on bail. With respect to the first application, the learned counsel asked for all the letters in the action, and pre-eminently one said to be written by Patrick Egan.

Sir James: I happen not to have read any of these papers, and when it appeared that I might take part in this inquiry I took care to keep my mind open. You must therefore inform me so as to guide my judgment.

Sir Charles Russell: One main charge running through the series of accusations summarized under the title of "Parnellism and Crime" is that of direct knowledge and participation in the commission of outrages. One of the parties to this participation was Patrick Egan, and a letter purporting to be signed by him was read by the Attorney-General in the course of the case of O'Donnell v. Walter.

Mr. Grahame: I am perfectly willing to produce the letters of Mr. Parnell or Mr. Egan.

Sir C. Russell: All the letters read in the course of the trial, and which were read by the counsel for the *Times*?

Mr. Grahame: I do not object to produce all the letters in our possession.

Sir James Hannen: The order will be for the inspection of all documents read by the Attorney-General in the action of "O'Donnell v. Walter."

Sir Charles Russell had now to ask that the defendants would furnish him with photographs, or that his clients should be allowed to furnish them at their own expense. The reason was obvious; it meant that they would have no opportunity of submitting the documents to experts unless photographs were obtained.

Mr. Grahame remarked that they had facsimile copies, and it was arranged that if these were not satisfactory, photographs would be supplied.

Sir Charles Russell said the next application was for the discovery of documents bearing upon the charges made. They deemed it to be of the greatest consequence, as they alleged that the material letters were forgeries, to know how many documents bearing on these charges the *Times* had had possession of, and if there had been a disclosure of all the documents, or only of a selection from a larger number in their possession. He therefore asked the *Times* to set out in an affidavit what documents were or had been in their possession and to account for those that were now in their possession, if there were any such.

Mr. Grahame objected on the part of his clients, and submitted that they ought not to be placed in the position of litigants in this matter. The court was sitting under the powers of an Act of Parliament which was not promoted by his clients, nor was this inquiry in this form raised by them. The Legislature had thought fit to adopt certain allegations made in certain proceedings in which they were defendants. In the course of these proceedings certain allegations and charges were made. Broadly speaking, they were that the members of the Parnellite party formed an association in Ireland which was known as the Land League in 1879, that this association was formed for the purpose of dealing with the agrarian difficulty and the question of Home Rule, and that the party which formed that association had enforced the views and decrees of that association by means of a system of boycotting, outrage of various description, and also of murder; that the members of the League, while posing as the Constitutional party, went about making inflammatory speeches, that these speeches were followed by crimes of violence, and that the parties committing these crimes were supported and recognized by this association; that eventually the Phoenix Park murders were committed; that the executive of the League then fled to America; while there they boasted of their connection with these murders; that they boasted of their connection with the Invincibles; and that they collected large sums both for the benefit of those who were convicted of murder, and for the purpose of defending those who were alleged to have committed these crimes; that the members of the Parnellite party, notwithstanding the avowed conduct of these men continued to act with them, to receive money from America, and that large sums of money, amounting to millions of dollars, were from time to time applied for the purpose of paying people who did commit crimes. Now the greater part of these accusations were founded on statements which appeared in the newspaper in America which was the avowed organ of the party there—the *Irish World*, of which Mr. Ford was the proprietor, and who had forwarded the money to the League. What they were now asked was that they who had derived their information to a large extent from statements in the various newspapers, and certain acts which they knew took place on certain occasions in which certain members of Parliament were mixed up with these people, should furnish to those for whom his learned friend appeared the full details of how much they knew, the extent to which their information went, and whom they were able to implicate by the information in their possession. He submitted that that was the very object for which their lordships were appointed a Commission—to find out whether there was any truth in these charges, and who were the persons implicated. Now, his learned friend asked that his clients (the *Times*) should be substituted for their lordships. This might be reasonable enough between two parties contesting a case, but not under the circumstances. He submitted that the Commission had no power to compel his clients to disclose this information. The learned counsel then made an allusion to the debates in the House, when

Sir James Hannen remarked: I know nothing of what took place in the House of Commons, and you must not refer to it.

Mr. Grahame, continuing, said the application was made in order that the eighty-five members of Parliament for whom Sir Charles Russell appeared might inform themselves of what information the *Times* had collected, of what documents they had in their possession, and how much they generally knew about them. He submitted that such a course would not be desirable, and that moreover even if it were desirable, the Commission would not have jurisdiction.

Sir Charles Russell expressed surprise that his hon. friend should state that

the proprietors of the *Times* appeared only in the character of witnesses. It was notorious that the bill was only promoted after an interview with the proprietor of the *Times*, and—

Mr. Grahame: I entirely deny it.
Sir James Hannen reminded the hon. and learned gentleman that they must look solely to the Act of Parliament.

Sir Charles Russell (continuing) said Mr. Grahame took up two positions with regard to the question of discovery: (1) That the Commission had no jurisdiction; and (2) that even if they had, this was not a case in which it ought to be exercised.

(1.) As to jurisdiction: Referring to the Special Commission Act, Sir Charles pointed out that it expressly gave the Commissioners all such powers, rights, and privileges as are vested in the High Court of Justice or any judge thereof on the occasion of any action, including the powers, rights, and privileges in respect of enforcing the attendance of witnesses, the punishing of persons guilty of contempt, &c. The *Times* had taken the initiative of applying for summonses for witnesses and for the examination of the bank books of the Land League. It was unarguable to say there was no power to make any order for discovery.

For the purposes of this Act the parties to the inquiry were placed in the same position as if they were parties to a suit. The preamble to the Act described it as a Special Commission to inquire into the charges and allegations made against certain members of Parliament and others in the recent action of O'Donnell v. Walter and another.

Sir James Hannen admitted that they could compel the production of documents; but the discovery of documents was, he thought, a totally different matter.

Sir Charles Russell contended that the Act conferred upon the Commission all the privileges of the High Court; adding that one of the clearest instances of the jurisdiction of the court would be that there should be an order for an affidavit of discovery.

II.—Exercise of Jurisdiction.—Proceeding to argue the necessity of such exercise of jurisdiction, Sir Charles said that on the one side there were produced letters which were alleged to be genuine. Those letters were on the other side denounced as forgeries. It was of the greatest consequence to know whether the documents produced are all that the *Times* have in their possession, or whether they are a selection from among many. His clients, under certain conditions, were willing to produce documents. What he was asking for was an ordinary incident of an action—namely, an affidavit of discovery, leaving the question of inspection and production to be afterwards dealt with.

Mr. Asquith briefly pointed out the powers of the High Court in relation to the discovery of documents.

Mr. Grahame contended that the rule of court compelling the discovery of documents by affidavit could only be set in motion by the opposite party to a suit; and that as this was not an action between two parties, but an inquiry, his clients could not be held to stand in the position of such opposite party.

The judges then retired to consider, and the decision will be given in our next edition.

INDIGNATION IN QUEBEC.

(EXCHANGE TELEGRAM.)

OTTAWA, Monday.—The organ of the Hon. Mr. Mercier, Premier of the Quebec Executive Council, threatens the secession of Quebec from the Dominion in the event of the Debt Conversion Bill being vetoed. Other Quebec newspapers call for public meetings to be held in order to consider the question of annexation to the United States.

CYCLONE IN THE ATLANTIC.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.—The French Transatlantic Company's steamer, *La Bourgogne*, which arrived here yesterday, encountered a cyclone on the 12th inst. while on her voyage across the Atlantic. Considerable damage was caused to the bridge of the vessel, and the boat fastenings were started.

THE REVISION OF VOTERS' LISTS.

STRAND.—Mr. Algernon Bathurst resumed his revision of the list of parliamentary and county voters for the St. James's parish in the Strand borough. The returns by the Liberals are as follows:—New house claims, 116; new lodger claims, 61; old lodger claims, 158; total, 335. The Revising Barrister gave his decision as to the power to transfer from the parliamentary to the municipal list, or *vice versa*. It will be remembered that the City of London Revising Barrister had the same question before him, and he decided against the power to transfer. Mr. Bathurst was of the same opinion, and he stated that all the other barristers held the same view.

FINSBURY.—Mr. Wallace held a sitting to-day to revise the list of parliamentary voters and county electors for the borough of Finsbury. Mr. C. H. Palmer appeared for the Conservatives, who made 300 claims; and Mr. W. H. Fenton for the Liberals, who made 757 claims.

ANOTHER MISSING GIRL.

A tradesman in Holborn writes to us as follows:—"A young girl, Alice Fletcher, one of my servants, left my house on Wednesday last to see the shops in Kentish Town, and has not been seen since. She left at 6 P.M., to return at 9.30, and had a black dress and jacket, black straw hat with red poppies. As she was a total stranger to London, and was very happy in her situation, I fear she has got into evil hands for immoral purposes. She is a good-looking girl of nineteen; medium height, fair complexion, dark brown hair. If any of your readers see her, will they please communicate with any police-station, as her mistress and parents are terribly anxious?"

AN EXTRAORDINARY CRICKET MATCH.

An extraordinary scene took place at a cricket match at Leicester on Saturday afternoon. The final match between the Loughborough and Leicester South End clubs for the challenge cup was being played at the County Ground before a large company, and on Poughley, the Leicestershire professional, being given out, the umpire's decision was challenged. The game was close, and great excitement prevailed. The Leicester men refused to continue the game, and left the field, no official decision as to possession of the cup being given. The visitors sought police protection.

Count Kalnoky left Vienna yesterday evening for Friedrichsruhe to visit Prince Bismarck. He will be absent from Austria for six days.

Mr. Maple, M.P., having written to Mr. Long, secretary to the Local Government Board, putting certain questions with respect to the elections to the London County Council, has received an official reply stating that an elector "may not give more than one vote for one candidate, but he may apparently vote for one candidate only;" and that "it appears to the Board that a woman is not entitled to be elected a county councillor."

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

Half-hast One.

STOCK MARKET QUIET.—AMERICANS DEPRESSED.

RISE IN THE GERMAN BANK RATE.

There are no special demands for accommodation in the open market this morning, but rates are maintained. The advance in the Imperial Bank of Germany's rate has had no particular effect, as it was generally expected that Germany would follow the action of the Bank of England and Bank of France. This sudden upward movement in the value of money has caused a feeling of disquietude in the open market, and many operators now look forward to a 5 per cent. Bank rate in the near future. Of course much depends upon whether or not the South American drain is at an end, and whether any more notes or gold will be taken for Russia. Short loans are in fair demand, but borrowers can generally obtain what they require at 2½ to 3 per cent. The discount rate for three months' bank paper is still quoted at 3½ per cent.

The principal activity in the Stock Markets is again in the department for American Railroad securities, and even here the business transacted is not on a particularly extensive scale. There is no doubt that advance in the value of money, together with the uncertain outlook of the Money Market in the near future have had a decided effect in checking the speculative activity observable during the early part of last week, but many operators are of opinion that the holding aloof will prove to be only temporary. Consols and other Home Government funds are quiet and unaltered. In the Home Railway market values are mostly maintained, through here and there a fractional decline is shown. North British continues in demand and shows a further advance, the price having now risen to 121¼. Foreign Government Bonds are still lifeless and there is nothing calling for special attention. The American Railroad market continues to be influenced by the movements in Milwaukee and St. Paul shares, which for the time being are receiving by far the largest share of attention. Compared with Saturday's official closing, the price shows a further decline of 1½, but active dealings were carried on in the "street" late Saturday afternoon at below 63. The variations in other directions are not of special importance; the tone is weak and almost all descriptions are lower, Northern Pacific Preference being especially offered. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks are dull, First and Second Preferences showing a further decline, and Mexican Railway issues are again being offered. Mining securities are neglected, and Miscellaneous descriptions are inactive.

The following are the latest changes compared with Saturday's closing:—

In Home Railways.—*Improved*: Hull and Barnsley and North British ¼, Great Eastern, Sheffield Deferred, and North Eastern ¼. *Receded*: Great Western ¼, Brighton Deferred, Chatham Ordinary, and Midland ¼.

Among Foreign Stocks.—*Advanced*: Turkish Group 1 ½, Groups 3 and 4 1-16, Egyptian Preference and Daira ¼, the Unified 1-16, Greek 1881 and Argentine Treasury ¼. *Declined*: Buenos Ayres, Cédulas 1 ¼, Peruvian 1870 and 1872 ¼.

American Railroads.—*Risen*: Illinois Central and Erie Second Mortgage ½. *Fallen*: Milwaukee and St. Paul 1½, Central Pacific, Northern Pacific Preference, and Union Pacific shares ¾, Louisville and Nashville, and Philadelphia and Reading shares ¾, New York Central, Norfolk and Western Preference, Pennsylvania shares, Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary, Wabash Preference and Mortgage ¼, Denver Ordinary and Erie shares ¼.

As regards Canadian and Foreign Railways.—*Lower*: Mexican Ordinary ¾, the First and Second Preference, ½, Grand Trunk First Preference ¾, the Second Preference ¾, the Third Preference ¼, the Ordinary 1-16, and Canada Pacific ¼.

The prospectus is issued of the United Kingdom Switchback Railways (Limited). This company has been formed to acquire and carry on the business of Thompson's Patent Gravity Switchback Railway Company, so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, and to acquire their interests in their switchback railways now working in various parts. The capital of the company is £60,000 in £1 shares, of which 35,000 is now offered for public subscription.

The directors of the Imperial Bank of Germany at their adjourned meeting this morning decided to raise their rate of discount from 3 to 4, and the rate of interest on advances from 4 to 5 per cent.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—There is a moderate business at previous prices. Sales, 8,000. Futures, after trifling fluctuations, are partially one point higher than Saturday's close.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		Brighton (Ordinary)		London and County	
Consols	100 ½	Do. A	125 ½	Union of London ..	85 6
New Consols 2½ ..	97 ½	Chatham (Ordinary)	23 ½	London and West ..	49 1
Reduced 3 p.c. ..	99 ½	Do. Preference ..	101 ¼	London Joint Stock ..	39 ½
Local Loan Stock ..	102 3	North Western ..	169 ¾	Nat. Prov. of Eng ..	42 ½
New 2½ p.c. ..	94 ½	South Western ..	13 ½	Stand. Bk. S. Afr ..	50 ½
India 3½ p.c. ..	104 ½	Manchester & Shef ..	70 2	Indian Consolidated ..	5 16 7 16
Do. 4½ p.c. ..	73 ½	Do. A	39 ½	Mysore shares ..	1 ½
Egyptian Guar. ..	99 ½	Met. Consolidated ..	74 ½	Oreoguns ..	1 ½
Met. Bd. Wks. 5½ ..	111 ½	Do. Land Stock ..	70 ½	Cape Copper ..	4 13 16 15 16
Do. 3 p.c. Scrip ..	101 ½	Do. District ..	34 ½	Namagha ..	3 ½
Birmingham Crp. Stk.	110 11	Midland ..	13 ½	Mason and Barry ..	10 13 16 11 16
Liverpool ..	110 ¾	North British ..	121 ¾	Kio Tinto ..	22 ½
FOREIGN STOCKS.		North Eastern ..	153 ½	Montana & Co. shares	1 9 16 11 16
Argentine 6 p.c. ..	100 2	North Stafford ..	111 13	De Beers ..	30 ½
Do. Hard Dols ..	70 ½	South Eastern ..	132 4	Kimberley Cent ..	31 ½
Do. Treasury ..	91 3	Do. Deferred ..	103 ½	TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.	
Austrian Gold ..	91 3	FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		Anglo-American ..	42 ½
Do. Silver ..	57 9	Canada Pacific ..	53 ½	Do. Pref. ..	72 3
Brazilian 1875 ..	103 4	Gen. Pacific Share ..	35 ½	Brazilian Submarine ..	13 ½
B. Ayres 6 p.c. ..	102 4	Chic. Mil. and St. F ..	63 ¼	Direct Unit. States ..	10 ½
Do. Cédulas 1½ ..	64 ½	Denver & R. Grande ..	19 ¼	Eastern ..	12 ½
Chilian 4½ p.c. 1875	100 2	Do. Pref. ..	52 ½	Ditto Extension ..	12 ½
Costa Rica A ..	91 3	Illinois Shares ..	121 ½	United Telephone ..	13 ½
Do. B ..	91 3	Lake Shore ..	100 ¼	Globe Teleg. Trust ..	7 ½
Egypt. State Don. ..	101 ½	Ohio & Mississippi ..	24 ½	TRAMWAYS, ETC.	
Do. Unified ..	84 ½	Louis. and Nash ..	60 ½	London Gen. Om. ..	188 03
Do. Preference ..	102 ½	Mex. Cen. Bonds ..	68 ½	London Street ..	12 13
Do. Daira Sanieh ..	79 ½	Do. Nat. "A" ..	63 ½	London Tramway ..	13 ½
French 3 p.c. Rnts ..	82 ½	Miss. Kan. & Texas ..	13 ½	North Metropolitan ..	15 ½
Do. 4½ p.c. Rnts ..	103 ½	N. Y. Cen. Share ..	111 ¼	WATERWORKS.	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ..	73 ½	New York Ontario ..	17 ½	Chelsea Waterworks ..	260 5
Hung. Gold Rente ..	82 ½	Erie Shares ..	25 ½	East London ..	197 202
Italian ..	95 ½	Do. Sec. Mort. ..	101 ½	Grand Junction ..	124 8
Mexican Converted ..	39 ¾	Norfolk & West. Pre ..	58 ½	Kent ..	260 74
Peruvian 5 p.c. 74	24 9-16 11 16	N. Y. P. & O. 1st M. ..	40 ½	Lambeth ..	260 5
Do. 6 p.c. ..	25 ½	North Pacific Pref ..	62 ½	New River, New ..	317 52
Portuguese ..	61 ¼	Pennsylvania Sh. ..	56 ½	Sh. & Vauxhall ..	101 70
Russian 1873 ..	93 ½	Phil. and Read. St ..	20 ½	W. Middlesex ..	254 9
Spanish 4 p.c. ..	74 1 16 3 16	Union Pacific Shares ..	60 ½	GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.	
Turkish 1854 ..	100 2	Wabash Preferred ..	27 ½	Gaslight & Coke ..	252 6
Group 1 ..	24 ½	Do. Gen. Mort. ..	44 ½	Imp. Continental ..	208 11
Group 2 ..	25 ½	Grand Trunk Sh. ..	10 ½	South Metropolitan ..	305 11
Groups 3 and 4 ..	14 ½	Do. First Pref. ..	63 ½	Grush Elec. Ld. (4 p.d.)	3 ½
5 p.c. 1871 ..	85 ½	Do. Second Pref ..	42 ½	MISCELLANEOUS.	
5 p.c. Defence ..	97 ½	Do. Third Pref. ..	24 ½	Allsopp ..	8 ½
5 p.c. Priority ..	81 3	Do. Guaranteed ..	63 ½	Guinness and Co. ..	305 10
Uruguay Unified ..	75 ½	Mexican Ordinary ..	46 ½	Hotchkiss ..	10 ½
V. P. Funded ..	41 3	Do. First Pref ..	110 ½	Bryant and May ..	12 ½
U.S. 4½ p.c. ..	108 ½	Ob. do. 2nd Pref ..	78 ½	Spratt's Patent ..	9 ½
BRITISH RAILWAYS.		Lombard-V. netian ..	9 ½	Do. O. Steam ..	65 7
Caledonian ..	112 ½	Varna 3 per cent ..	2 ½	Royal Mail Steam ..	64 7
Great Eastern ..	69 ¾	Nitrate Railway ..	27 ½	W. Discount Co. ..	11 ½
Great Northern ..	113 19	BANKS.		Hudson's Bay ..	10 ½
Ditto A ..	104 5	Alliance Bank ..	13 ½	Canal ..	87 ½
Great Western ..	106 ½	City Bank ..	20 ½	Do. W. Ind. Dock ..	24 6
Hull and Barnsley ..	106 ½	Consolidated Bank ..	7 ½	London and St. K. ..	44 9
Lanc. and York ..	119 20	Imperial Overseas ..	11 9-16 11 16		

GHASTLY ATTEMPT TO MURDER NEAR HANLEY.

A MAN HUNTED BY POLICE AND DOGS.

A savage crime was committed in the rural district of Washerwall, about three miles from Hanley, on Saturday morning. For some time past an intimacy has existed between a widow named Mary Jane Bonnell, a cowkeeper, and a collier named Thomas Clewes, about twenty-one years of age. Latterly the victim of the outrage has shown a preference for the brother of her late husband, and this appears to have aroused the jealousy of the man Clewes. On the previous Sunday, after Mrs. Bonnell and her three children had retired to rest he broke into the house through one of the windows, and, making his way to the bedroom, he presented a loaded revolver at her, telling her that he would shoot her dead unless she consented to marry him. The woman begged for life, and the children also pleaded for their mother, and, eventually he gave her half an hour in which to make up her mind. He then returned the revolver to his pocket, lay down on the bed, and went soundly to sleep. During his sleep Mrs. Bonnell took the weapon from him, and escaped with her children. Next morning she applied to the magistrates at Hanley for a warrant for the arrest of Clewes, which was granted, but as the man absconded, it had not been served. The woman, however, seems to have been much impressed by his threats, and during the whole of last week she considered it safer to sleep away from home. During Friday night Clewes again effected an entrance into her house, and awaited her return. When she came in on Saturday morning, and was in the act of drawing up the blind of one of the front windows, Clewes came behind her from his place of concealment, and in the presence of her children dealt her several terrible blows on the head with the sharp edge of a woodman's axe, with which he had armed himself, and then made his escape. The woman was found unconscious and terribly injured, and was removed to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, where no hopes are entertained of her life. Clewes is still at large. The surrounding country has been scoured by police and dogs, but in vain. He has not yet been arrested.

NEW RAILWAY TO BLACKPOOL.

There is reason to believe that the new coast railway to Blackpool will be shortly begun. Sir Edward Watkin was in Blackpool last week, and in conference with directors of the West Lancashire Railway and other gentlemen on the matter. Most of the land for the line has been acquired, and there is but little to purchase at the Blackpool end. The railway will begin at Preston, and skirt the Ribble and the estuarial coast line. It will be in connection with the West Lancashire system, and through the Wigan junction with the Cheshire lines, the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, the Great Northern, and the Midland. Other railway enterprises are in hand, and engineers are arranging for a new line from Preston up the Ribble valley into Yorkshire.

THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISTS.

A conference of the National Association of Journalists was held at Bristol on Saturday, when a scheme for converting the body into an Institute of Journalists was discussed and adopted. An interesting debate was raised on an amendment submitted by the Berks, Oxford, and Bucks district, that ladies should be non-corporate members. This was seconded by the Hereford sub-district, the proposer remarking, amid laughter, that while there was no desire to keep out ladies entirely, yet as spinsters were obliged to increase in number and would probably take to journalism as a profession, it was necessary that steps should be taken to prevent the management getting into their hands. Mr. Harold Lewis, of the *Bristol Mercury*, opposed the amendment, and was of opinion that there would be no better profession in which ladies could use their talents than journalism. The ability and fitness which ladies possessed for journalism were strikingly shown in the case of Mrs. Crawford, the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*. The president (Mr. H. G. Reid) mentioned that nine-tenths of the members of the association were in favour of ladies being fully admitted. Only two voted for the amendment, which was accordingly lost. The admission of ladies was agreed to. Among other subjects brought before the delegates was that of the rule which was laid down that it was the duty of the council to provide for the introduction of a system of examination for fitness. The president said the primary object of the institute was educational, and the proposition was carried. The conference was practically concluded by the delegates adopting unanimously the proposition of the president that the Central Executive should take the necessary steps for the conversion of the association into the Institute of Journalists.

FOUND DEAD IN A RAILWAY TUNNEL.

An inquest was held on Saturday on the body of John King, aged thirty-nine, a brakesman, who was found partly decapitated on Wednesday morning between the wall and the outside rail of the down passenger line midway in Belsize tunnel, near Haverstock-hill station, on the Midland Railway, and was believed to have met with foul play. Evidence showed that the deceased, who had recently returned from America, took a ticket on Tuesday for Glasgow, and left by the 9.15 P.M. train from St. Pancras for that city. The train first stopped at Kentish-town, then at Bedford, and next at Leicester. The deceased travelled in a third class smoking compartment along with several sailors and a stowaway named M'Gill, who had come with him from Sydney in the steamer on board of which King was a passenger. At Kentish-town the deceased was left alone with the stowaway, the other men betaking themselves to another compartment, where, it appeared, whisky was to be had, and it was conjectured that after the train had left Kentish-town, and was proceeding at a rapid pace through Belsize tunnel, the deceased got upon the footboard, and in endeavouring to reach his former companions slipped and fell. Before departing from St. Pancras he was very desirous of procuring a bottle of whisky, which he said was in his bag in the luggage van; but there was no time to get it. At Carlisle and again at Dumfries, the stowaway, M'Gill, was found sleeping alone in the smoking compartment, and had to be roused in order that his ticket might be examined. The deceased was found possessed of his watch and chain and money, and there were no indications of a struggle having occurred. M'Gill was under an obligation to the deceased, who, with others, had subscribed to pay his fare to Glasgow. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

THREE EXAMPLES OF MARRIAGE AS A FAILURE.

Three women applied to the Dalston magistrate on Saturday, desiring to be separated from their respective husbands. One had been knocked down by her husband, who had given her a "frightful leg." Another had been married fourteen years, and had had "as good as nine children, and fourteen years of misery." The third had also had "fourteen years of misery," and had been beaten by her husband. The magistrate suggested a summons in each case.

VICAR AND CHURCHWARDEN.

A SCUFFLE AMONG THE TOMBS.

Before the Retford county police-court, on Saturday, Jonathon Marrison, the parish churchwarden of Gringley-on-the-Hill, about eight miles from Retford, was summoned by the vicar, the Rev. Gustavus Honton Scott, to answer two distinct charges of assault committed in and near the churchyard on Friday, August 17. Some difficulty having arisen with respect to the payment of the fees for a tombstone in the churchyard, the vicar determined to remove the coping from round the graves, but the churchwarden, acting under the direction of the archdeacon, endeavoured to prevent him. The vicar secured the services of three men from the neighbouring parish of Everton, and on August 17, at about eight o'clock in the morning, the churchwarden found them at work. An unseemly scuffle ensued, the subject of the present case. In the course of the hearing the vicar maintained that he had perfect power to remove the tombstone in the churchyard. He could level graves and stones if he chose, and any stones illegible or damaged he could remove altogether from the churchyard. The majority of the Bench were of opinion that the evidence was very conflicting, and the case was dismissed. Mr. Scott, with respect to the second charge, said that half an hour after the first disturbance to he was again struck by the defendant Marrison, and the Bench in this instance found the assault proved, and fined the churchwarden 5s. and costs.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF MAR.

Early yesterday morning the Earl of Mar and Kellie died at his residence, Alloa House, Alloa, N.B., very suddenly. He had been in ill-health for a few months past, but no apprehensions were entertained as to the serious character of his illness. He was in the forty-ninth year of his age, and leaves a widow and eight children. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Walter John Francis, Lord Erskine, who only attained his majority two years ago. The late earl was the eldest son of the twelfth Earl of Kellie. He was born in 1839 in India, and married, in 1863, Mary Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. William Forbes, of Medwyn. He was educated at Radley and Brasenose College, Oxford, and succeeded his father in the earldom of Kellie in 1872, and was elected a representative peer for Scotland in 1876. The claim to the earldom was brought before the House of Lords in 1867, and in 1875 it was placed in the possession of the late peer, who was premier viscount and baron of Scotland.

THE LIE DIRECT.—The *Journal de St. Pétersbourg* is authorized to give the direct lie to Mdme. Adam's reiterated assertion that an interview between the Tzar and the late Emperor William at Stettin was desired by the German Monarch, and that an invitation sent to the Tzar was declined.

SUICIDE OF A LIEUTENANT.—Information reached Plymouth late last evening that Lieutenant Edmonds, North Irish Division Royal Artillery, in charge of a detachment at Bovisand, near Plymouth, had committed suicide that evening by shooting himself with a revolver. Deceased had just been engaged practising shooting at glass bottles. It is rumoured that he had sustained rather heavy losses during the last few months.

DEATH OF A CANON OF BANGOR CATHEDRAL.—The Rev. Daniel Evans, D.D., one of the canons non-residential of Bangor Cathedral, died at Hastings on Friday night, after a prolonged illness. Dr. Evans, who resigned the vicarage of Carnarvon in 1884, was at one time among the best known of the Welsh clergy, and was very prominent upon Church Defence platforms. In 1877 the Archbishop of Canterbury gave him a Lambeth degree in acknowledgment of the services rendered by him to the Church in Wales.

FATAL FIGHT BETWEEN TWO SOLDIERS.—Two privates of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, named William Jones and James Barrett, stationed at Tregantle Fort, near Plymouth, had been drinking on Saturday night in the canteen. They quarrelled, and fought, as supposed, at the Axill Battery. The men were found on the flags below afterwards, and removed to the hospital. Barrett's skull was fractured, and he died yesterday, while Jones remains under treatment, and is severely injured.

THE FALL OF THE NILE.—The latest news from Alexandria is to the effect that the fall of the Nile has been arrested, and hopes are reviving. The estimates as to the amount of land which will be uncultivable, owing to the want of water, next year, vary from 100,000 to 600,000 acres. Mr. Willcocks, of the Public Works Department, has already inspected the four provinces of Minieh, Assiout, Benisouef, and Ghizeh, which comprise 1,350,000 acres. He estimates the uncultivable area in these provinces at from 88,000 to 130,000 acres—say, from 6½ to 9½ per cent.

THE PROFITS OF THE HEREFORD FESTIVAL.—The amount collected on behalf of the clergy widows and orphans' charity up to the close of the Hereford Festival on Friday afternoon proves to be very little short of the sum raised at the corresponding period of the festival three years ago, the total being £800 3s. 5d., against £813 7s. There was added to this latter amount after the last festival further contributions, paid direct to the treasurer (contributed, it is assumed, by the stewards), of £336 19s. 11d., and no doubt a like amount will be paid in this year from the like source, so that, as anticipated, the amount raised for the charity will at least amount to £1,000.

THE DISAPPEARANCE FROM AN OSTEND BOAT.—Although exhaustive inquiries have been made with reference to the mysterious disappearance of the gentleman named Primrose, of Piccadilly, who was missed on Thursday morning on board the Ostend boat *Louise Marie*, nothing has been discovered to throw any light upon the occurrence. Presuming that he fell overboard, the fact is regarded as very strange that he was not seen by any of the officers who watch the vessel from stem to stern. Nothing was noticed until the passengers were going ashore, when the missing man's friend asked where he was. Failing to find him he proceeded to London, taking with him the missing gentleman's baggage.

THE REGENT'S PARK MURDERS: LIBEL ACTION.—Bernard George Wilson, solicitor, was summoned before Mr. Cooke, at the Marylebone police-court, on Saturday, for having published a series of libels in a letter, signed by him, and published in the *Paddington Times*, upon Thomas Harry Brown and David Cleary, witnesses in the trial of Galletly who was convicted of the murder of Rumbold, in Regent's Park. Mr. Taylor, for the defendant, contended that the letter was privileged. Mr. Cooke ruled that privilege could only be claimed by the members of the staff of the newspapers, and not by any private person, and especially by a solicitor who had been defending a prisoner in the case. He committed defendant to trial, accepting his recognizance in £5 for his appearance.

The popularity of FRY'S PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA is rapidly increasing, and where once tried its delicious flavour and agreeable qualities secure for it a permanent place in the household dietary. Highly recommended, by many eminent physicians, for young children and delicate persons to whom tea is injurious. Ask your Grocer for a sample and book of Testimonials.

TO THE LAMA OF TIBET.

AN INTERVIEW WITH VASILII VERESTCHAGIN.

THE famous Russian painter is now in New York, and has been interviewed by all the leading papers on his life and work. Readers of the *Pall Mall Gazette* are already familiar with much that M. Verestchagin had to tell his interviewers, but the following reminiscences of travel in Tibet which he communicated to the *Tribune* will be read just now with special interest:—

OFF TO SEE THE LAMA.

"Some years ago," said M. Verestchagin, "I happened to be in St. Petersburg, and my friend, Baron Ostensaken, a Russian official of high rank, who is well acquainted with Asia and who is a very clever man, informed me that our great traveller Prjevalsky (pronounced Jvalski) was starting on another long journey through Asia, China, and Tibet, and that a handsome silver tea service had been ordered for presentation to the great Dalai Lama, of Tibet, who represents the divinity of the Buddhist Church. 'The Dalai Lama will never drink tea from that service,' I replied. 'But Prjevalsky carries out all he undertakes,' said the Baron. 'You will see that he will succeed in being presented to the great Lama.' 'You will see that he will not,' I answered, and it turned out that Prjevalsky camped ten or twelve days before Lassa, the sacred capital of Tibet, but was obliged to retire without having seen the great Dalai Lama."

THE BUDDHIST HOLY OF HOLIES.

"The Dalai Lama is supposed never to die. If he dies to-day, in a few days, a few weeks, or a few months the High Priest finds the Dalai Lama's soul somewhere in a new-born child. That is the High Priest's business. Sometimes he finds the Lama's soul in the home of a minister and sometimes in a peasant's hut or tent. The Christians are very proud of the number of their co-religionists, especially the Catholics, but if we take the Buddhists as a whole we find that they are very much more numerous than the Catholics and all other Christians combined. Tibet is the centre of this faith; there can be found the most sacred temples, highest priests, and the most sacred personage, the Dalai Lama. The other dignitaries of the Church circle round him like planets around the sun. For every Buddhist the smallest thing coming from Lassa is the most sacred thing he can become possessed of."

THE HOME OF THE GREAT LAMA.

"The Tibetans are virtually independent, though they are under the official protection of China. But with their standing in religious circles it is admitted that they are virtually independent. When I was in Csisikkim (pronounced Tskim), a small, independent State in the northern part of India, I thought I would go to Tibet. I spoke to the Commissioner of that dependency and he informed me that the Tibetans would not allow me to penetrate into the interior. I said, 'Never mind, I will take two or three good men with me and try it.' 'I can't allow you to go,' he replied. 'We are at peace with Tibet and your journey may cause trouble.' But I went, nevertheless, though I recognized the fact that I had a difficult task before me. I was, however, stimulated by the example of Prjevalsky, who, with seven or eight good Cossacks, armed with excellent rifles, went all over Central Asia and China in spite of the opposition of the Chinese. In many cases he fought real battles with the turbulent tribes, but he brought back a wonderful collection of curiosities. But still he did not see the Dalai Lama."

"It must not be imagined that Lassa is like some capitals of Europe. It is built on a comparatively flat place, among very high and rude mountains. There are a dozen or two monasteries surrounding the few dozen houses inhabited by the Dalai Lama and his immediate household—and that is all."

A RUSSIAN VIEW OF OUR "LITTLE WAR."

"The English are having a little war with Tibet at present, and when I gave a present of a rifle to the Minister of Csisikkim the people were as pleased as children with a new toy. But the English Governor does not like the natives to have guns in the neighbourhood of Dargilling, the nearest English possession. It is from that place that the English send their troops into Tibet."

"The cause of the war is that the English are trying to make the Tibetans a little less proud, but they have not yet decided to strike a good blow. The consequence is that the Tibetans think they have vanquished the English. It is better not to make war at all than to make it under these circumstances."

"My friend Mr. Edgar is secretary of the Governor of Bengal, and I recommended to him that the English strike because the Tibetans will not recognize their power until decisive victories are won. The English must go to the Dalai Lama, must take Lassa, and then they can return."

"But would not this action excite the Buddhists throughout India and the rest of the East?" was the question that flashed through the writer's mind. M. Verestchagin, however, continued without interruption:—

"War, as the English are now making it upon Tibet, is worse than no war, for when they retire from the Tibetan frontier the Tibetans will say that they have beaten the English."

"The country in Tibet is very rude and inhospitable, though the people are good hearted. The English cannot have a great trade through Tibet, and all they can require is to have the roads open, and thus enable them to trade with China through Tibet. But, as they have other ways to reach China, I don't see even the slightest use for them to quarrel with the Tibetans. It is simply a war of neighbours, and England as the big, powerful neighbour cannot allow the little and very offensive neighbour to say to her, 'You shall not come into my territory!'"

SAD RESULTS OF A LITTLE SKETCH.

"The best method of travelling in Tibet is with yaks, an animal something like a cow. The only trouble with yaks is that they must remain in the Himalayas, at an elevation of not less than eleven thousand feet above the level of the sea. When they get lower down they catch the fever. (Barnum's yaks flourish in glorious health at sea level.)"

"I remember that I wanted to sketch a yak, and as I was only nine thousand feet up in the mountains, they brought me a yak and asked me to sketch it as quickly as possible or it would become sick. I kept the animal two days, and on the second day it became sick. On the third day it was quite ill, and we were obliged to kill the beast, for they would not let it return to the herd, and my coolies ate the flesh."

TRAVEL AND SPORT IN TIBET.

"Yaks are nice animals to travel with, for where the pony or ass cannot go (along the small paths near the precipices), where a horse is sure to fall, you

can safely go with the yak. When I wanted to have milk with me in my travels in Tibet I took a cow yak and her calf with me. The yak's milk is stronger than cow's milk, more yellow, of a rosy tinge, and gives much more cream and butter. I have referred to the domestic yaks."

"The wild yaks are very difficult to see, and much more difficult to shoot. In fact, I only saw their traces in the snow; the animals are very strong and wild, and very difficult to meet. Indeed, the mountains of the Himalaya are so big that hunting, in all instances, is most difficult. You have to go as high as nineteen thousand and twenty thousand feet above the level of the sea to get a shot at a goat; and even then you are not sure to find it or have it when you find it."

"In general animals and birds are very scarce in these parts, and in Eastern Tibet they are more scarce than in the West. I have some beautiful stuffed birds from those regions, thanks to my friend Mr. Edgar. For the hunter in Western Tibet a very interesting animal is the *Ovis ammon*, a large sheep (possibly similar to the mountain sheep familiar to the Rocky Mountains); and in the mountains of Turkestan there are *Ovis nolis*, a sheep of the same kind, perhaps stronger, the horns making two round turns instead of one, as in the first named species."

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS OF THE TIBETANS.

"I don't think there are many things to get from Tibet except wool, Tibetan carpets, and ponies. The carpets coming from China are much better than the carpets of Tibetan manufacture. The ponies are strong and good-looking. I don't see what more can be taken from that very poor and inhospitable country. The inhabitants are very good people, and so long as they don't mix your visit with politics you are very well received."

"For instance, frequently where there was no place to pitch my tent, or when it had been left behind, I and my wife were placed in the temple and entertained by the Lamas. The Lamas were never offensive, and when I publish my book of travels in that part of the world, that portion of the work will be written by my wife, for she kept the diary at that time. In most parts of the country she was the first European lady to visit the Tibetans, and the inhabitants would touch her clothes and even her hair to see what they were made of."

"A most interesting feature of that part of the world is the opposite to your Mormonism—that is to say, polyandry. I sketched one horribly ugly woman, the most hideous creature I have ever seen, and she had five husbands, and they were all brothers. According to the custom of the country all the brothers of a family marry one woman."

"But who is the head of the family?"

"The first husband, or eldest brother, is the head of the household."

MR. BRADLAUGH'S LEGAL EXPENSES.

We have received the following subscriptions since the publication of our last list:—

Wm. Square, F.R.C.S.	£1	1	0
W. Barnet	1	1	0
T. H. Glennie	0	2	6
W. M. Rossetti	0	2	6

Transferred from Langworthy Fund:—

C. C. Boolds	1	1	0
G. C. F., Sidcup	1	0	0

Received by treasurer direct:—

T. A.	£10	0	0	Collected by James Ward...	£0	14	0
Collected by G. F. Catchpole and Joseph Ward ...	7	6	3	W. Baster, ...	0	10	0
Collected by Frank Lovitt .	3	4	3	T. J. Hollwell	0	10	0
Benjamin Shaw, Huddersfield	2	2	0	"A Trifle towards paying off the £2,000"	0	10	0
J. E. Medley	2	0	0	W. H. Hawkes	0	10	0
Collected by J. Whiteley, Eleusis Club	1	11	6	Collected by John Robinson	0	5	6
George Jacob Holyoake ...	1	1	0	Collected by John Lawrence and M. Pragaff	0	5	0
Arthur King	1	0	0	M. H. Pine	0	5	0
Aylmer Maude, of Moscow	1	0	0	J. Dance	0	5	0
M. C. W., per J. Swaagman	1	0	0	W. H. Karn	0	5	0
C. Shuttlebotham	1	0	0	Collected by J. H. Stole ...	0	2	0
A. C. G. Hollis	1	0	0	C. C., Suffolk	0	2	0
Collected by G. D.	0	16	0	J. D.	0	1	0
Collected by J. Harris, N.W.Br., N.S.S.	0	14	6	Miss A. E. S.	0	1	0
				Edward King	0	1	0
				M. A.	0	1	0

Received through Mr. Bradlaugh	£11	0	0
G. H. Young	2	2	0
H. K. Bristol	1	0	0
Robert Turner	0	10	0

Received by treasurer, through Editor of the <i>Pall Mall Gazette</i>	10	0	0
Total in treasurer's hands to date	£1,137	17	4

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—It would be a public shame if we allowed the latter part of Mr. Bradlaugh's life to be oppressed with the remaining debt of the very moderate law costs incurred for the public good in the struggle about the oath. Thanking you for making the appeal, congratulating you on your success thus far, and wishing you may rapidly realize the £1,500 required, I enclose £1 as my share in the matter.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES GASKELL HIGGINSON.

38, Widmore-road, Bromley, Kent, September 13.

TO STOUT PEOPLE.—*Sunday Times* says:—"Mr. Russell's aim is to eradicate, to cure the disease, and that his treatment is the true one seems beyond all doubt. The medicine he prescribes does not lower, but builds up and tones the system." Book (116 pages) with recipe and notes how to pleasantly and rapidly cure obesity (average reduction in first week is 3 lb.), post free eight stamps.—F. C. Russell, Weborn House, Store street, Bedford-square, London, W.C.

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CHAPTER VIII.

NARRATIVE OF JOHN EASTERLING, F.R.C.P. EDIN.

I HAVE very much pleasure in furnishing Mr. Fothergill West with an account of my solitary visit to Cloomber Hall, not only on account of the esteem which I have formed for that gentleman ever since his residence at Branksome, but also because it is my conviction that the facts in the case of General Heatherstone are of such a singular nature that it is of the highest importance that they should be placed before the public in a trustworthy manner.

It was about the beginning of September of the year before last that I received a note from Mrs. Heatherstone, of Cloomber Hall, desiring me to make a professional call upon her husband, whose health, she said, had been for some time in a very unsatisfactory state. I had heard something of the Heatherstones and of the strange seclusion in which they lived, so that I was very much pleased at this opportunity of making their closer acquaintance, and lost no time in complying with her request. I had known the Hall in the old days of Mr. McVittie, the original proprietor, and I was astonished on arriving at the avenue gate to observe the changes which had taken place. The gate itself, which used to yawn so hospitably upon the road, was now barred and locked, and a high wooden fence with nails upon the top encircled the whole grounds. The drive itself was leaf-strewn and uncared-for, and the whole place had a depressing air of neglect and decay.

I had to knock twice before a servant-maid opened the door and showed me through a dingy hall into a small room, where sat an elderly, care-worn lady, who introduced herself as Mrs. Heatherstone. With her pale face, her grey hair, her sad, colourless eyes and her faded silk dress, she was in perfect keeping with her melancholy surroundings.

"You find us in much trouble, Doctor," she said in a quiet, refined voice. "My poor husband has had a great deal to worry him, and his nervous system for a long time has been in a very weak state. We came to this part of the country in the hope that the bracing air and the quiet would have a good effect upon him. Instead of improving, however, he has seemed to grow weaker, and this morning he is in a high fever and a little inclined to be delirious. The children and I were so frightened that we sent for you at once. If you will follow me I will take you to the General's bedroom."

She led the way down a series of corridors to the chamber of the sick man, which was situated in the extreme wing of the building. It was a carpetless, bleak-looking room, scantily furnished with a small trundle-bed, a campaigning chair, and a plain deal table, on which were scattered numerous papers and books. In the centre of this table there stood a large object of irregular outline, which was covered over with a sheet of linen. All round the walls and in the corners were arranged a very choice and varied collection of arms, principally swords, some of which were of the straight pattern in common use in the British army, while among the others were scimitars, tulwars, cucurries, and a score of other specimens of Oriental workmanship. Many of these were richly mounted with inlaid sheaths and hilts sparkling with precious stones, so that there was a piquant contrast between the simplicity of the apartment and the wealth which glittered on the walls. I had little time, however, to observe the General's collection, since the General himself lay upon his bed and was evidently in sore need of my services.

He was lying with his head turned half away from us, breathing heavily, and apparently unconscious of our presence. His bright, staring eyes and the deep hectic flush upon his cheek showed that

his fever was at the height. I advanced to the bedside, and, stooping over him, I placed my fingers upon his pulse, when immediately he sprang up into the sitting position and struck at me frenziedly with his clenched hands. I have never seen such intensity of fear and horror stamped upon a human face as appeared upon that which was now glaring up at me.

"Bloodhound!" he yelled; "let me go—let me go, I say! Keep your hands off me. Is it not enough that my life has been ruined? When is it all to end? How long am I to endure it?"

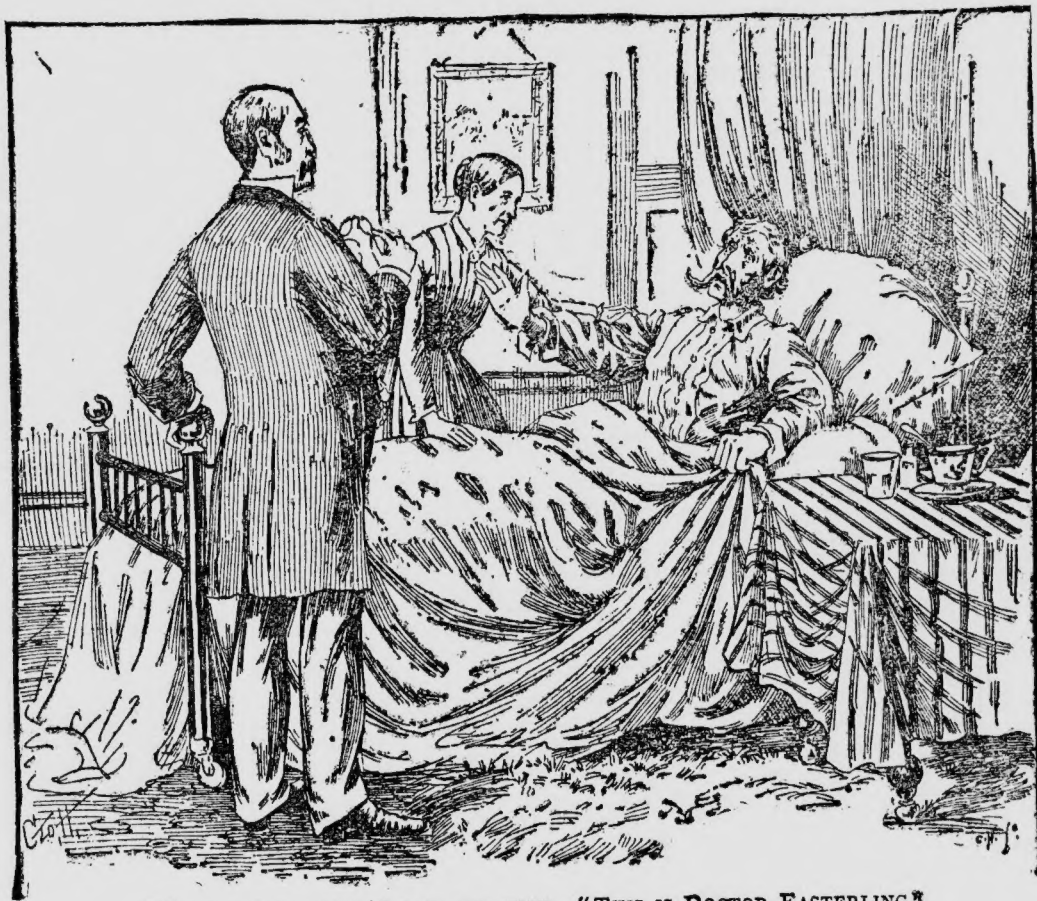
"Hush, dear, hush!" said his wife in a soothing voice, passing her cool hand over his heated fore-

careful examination; "but I am happy to tell you that the abscess has either been entirely absorbed, or has turned calcareous, as these solitary abscesses will. There is no fear of its doing you any harm now."

He seemed to be by no means overjoyed at the intelligence. "Things always happen so with me," he said moodily. "Now, if another fellow was feverish and delirious he would surely be in some danger; and yet you will tell me that I am in none. Look at this, now," he bared his chest and showed me a puckered wound over the region of the heart. "That's where the jezail bullet of a hillman went in. You would think that was in the right spot to settle a man; and yet what does it do but glance upon a rib, and go clean round and out at the back, without so much as penetrating what you medicos call the pleura. Did ever you hear of such a thing?"

"You were certainly born under a lucky star," I observed, with a smile.

"That's a matter of opinion," he answered, shaking his head. "Death has no terrors for me, if it will but come in some familiar form; but I confess that the anticipation of some strange, some preternatural form of death is very terrible and unnerving."



"HUSH, DEAR, HUSH!" SAID HIS WIFE. "THIS IS DOCTOR EASTERLING."

head. "This is Doctor Easterling, from Stranraer. He has not come to harm you, but to do you good."

The General dropped wearily back upon his pillow, and I could see by the changed expression of his face that the delirium had left him, and that he understood what had been said. I slipped my clinical thermometer into his armpit and counted his pulse rate. It amounted to 120 per minute, and his temperature proved to be 104 deg. Clearly it was a case of remittent fever, such as occurs in men who have spent a great part of their lives in the tropics. "There is no danger," I remarked. "With a little quinine and arsenic we shall very soon overcome the attack and restore his health."

"No danger, eh?" he said. "There never is any danger for me. I'm as hard to kill as the Wandering Jew. I'm quite clear in the head now, Mary; so you may leave me with the doctor."

Mrs. Heatherstone left the room—rather unwillingly, as I thought; and I sat down by the bedside to listen to anything which my patient might have to communicate.

"I want you to examine my liver," he said, when the door was closed. "I used to have an abscess there, and Brodie, the staff-surgeon, said that it was ten to one that it would carry me off. I have not felt much of it since I left the East. This is where it used to be, just under the angle of the ribs."

"I can find the place," said I, after making a

"You mean," said I, rather puzzled at his remark, "that you would prefer a natural death to a death by violence."

"No, I don't mean that exactly," he answered. "I am too familiar with cold steel and lead to be afraid of either. Do you know anything about odyllic force, Doctor?"

"No, I do not," I replied, glancing sharply at him to see if there were any signs of his delirium returning. His expression was intelligent, however, and the feverish flush had faded from his cheeks.

"Ah, you Western scientific men are very much behind the day in some things," he remarked. "In all that is material and conducive to the comfort of the body you are pre-eminent, but in what concerns the subtle forces of nature and the latent powers of the human spirit your best men are centuries behind the humblest coolies of India. Countless generations of beef-eating, comfort-loving ancestors have given our animal instincts the command over our spiritual ones. The body, which should have been a mere tool for the use of the soul, has now become a degrading prison in which it is confined. The Oriental soul and body is not so welded together as ours is, and there is far less wrench when they part at death."

"They do not appear to derive much benefit from this peculiarity in their organization," I remarked, incredulously.

"Merely the benefit of superior knowledge," the General answered. "If you were to go to India, probably the very first thing you would see in the way of amusement would be a native doing what is called the mango trick. Of course you have heard or read of it. The fellow plants a mango seed, and makes passes over it until it sprouts and bears leaves and fruit—all in the space of half an hour. It is not really a trick—it is a power. These men know more than your Tyndalls or Huxleys do about Nature's processes, and they can accelerate or retard her workings by subtle means of which we have no conception. These low-caste conjurers—as they are called—are mere vulgar dabblers, but the men who have trod the higher path, the brethren of the Ragi-zog, are far more our superiors in knowledge than we are of the Hottentots or Patagonians."

Soon after I rose to take my departure. Before doing so I felt his pulse once more, and found that the fever had entirely left him, in the sudden, unaccountable fashion which is peculiar to these malarious types of disease. I turned my face towards him to congratulate him upon his improvement, and stretched out my hand at the same time to pick my gloves from the table, with the result that I raised not only my own property, but also the linen cloth which was arranged over some object in the centre. I might not have noticed what I had done had I not seen an angry look upon the invalid's face and heard him utter an impatient exclamation. I at once turned and replaced the cloth so promptly that I should have been unable to say what was underneath it, beyond having a general impression that it looked like a bride-cake.

"All right, Doctor," the General said good-

humouredly, perceiving how entirely accidental the incident was. "There is no reason why you should not see it," and stretching out his hand, he pulled away the linen covering for the second time. I then perceived that what I had taken for a bride-cake was really an admirably executed model of a lofty range of mountains, whose snow-clad peaks were not unlike the familiar sugar pinnacles and minarets.

"These are the Himalayas, or at least the Surinam branch of them," he remarked, "showing the principal passes between India and Afghanistan. It is an excellent model. This ground has a special interest for me, because it is the scene of my first campaign. There is the pass opposite Kalabagh and the Thul valley, where I was engaged during the summer of 1841 in protecting the convoys and keeping the Afreedees in order. It wasn't a sinecure, I promise you."

"And this," said I, indicating a blood-red spot which had been marked on one side of the pass which he had pointed out—"this is the scene of some fight in which you were engaged?"

"Yes, we had a skirmish there," he answered leaning forward and looking at the red mark. "We were attacked by—" at this moment he fell back upon his pillow as if he had been shot, while the same look of horror came over his face which I had observed when I first entered the room. At the same instant there came, apparently from the air immediately above his bed, a sharp, ringing, tinkling sound, which I can only compare to the noise made by a bicycle alarm, though it differed from this in having a distinctly throbbing character. I have never, before or since, heard any sound which could be confounded with it. I stared round in astonishment, wondering

where it could have come from, but without perceiving anything to which it could be ascribed.

"It's all right, Doctor," the General said, with a forced smile. "It's only my private gong. Perhaps you had better step downstairs and write my prescription in the dining-room."

He was evidently anxious to get rid of me; so I was forced to take my departure, though I would gladly have stayed a little longer, in the hope of learning something as to the origin of the mysterious sound. I drove away from the house with the full determination of calling again upon my interesting patient, and endeavouring to elicit some further particulars as to his past life and his present circumstances. I was destined, however, to be disappointed; for I received that very evening a note from the General himself, enclosing a handsome fee for my single visit, and informing me that my treatment had done him so much good that he considered himself to be convalescent, and would not trouble me to see him again. This was the last and the only communication which I ever received from the tenant of Cloomber.

I have been frequently asked by neighbours and others who were interested in the matter, whether he gave me the impression of insanity. To this I must unhesitatingly answer in the negative. On the contrary, his remarks gave me the idea of a man who had both read and thought deeply. I observed, however, during our single interview that his reflexes were feeble, his arcus senilis well marked, and his arteries atheromatous—all signs that his constitution was in an unsatisfactory condition, and that a sudden crisis might be apprehended.

[To be continued.]

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Site.	Number working.	When opened.	Site.	Number working.	When opened.
The Italian Exhibition, London	2	1888, May 12	Bridlington	1	1888, June 27
The International Exhibition, Glasgow	2	" May 7	Scarborough	1	" July 19
Cleethorpes	1	" March 31	Plymouth	1	" July 19
Crystal Palace, London	1	" May 21	† Skegness	1	" March 30
* Margate	1	" June 25	Hull	1	" May 19
Ramsgate Pier, Ramsgate	1	" Feb. 16	Great Yarmouth	1	" Aug. 17
			Folkestone	1	" Aug. 8
			Brighton	1	" Aug. 8

* Structure not wholly the property of the Vendor Company.

† Vendor Company interested only in percentage of takings.

The business will be taken over from the 1st of September, 1888, and all liabilities will be satisfied up to that date by the Vendor Company, who will retain all book debts.

The profits of the Vendor Company, attributable to the business, properties, and interests to be acquired by the new Company during the season 1888, up to and including 1st September, 1888, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, have been £7,955, as appears from the following certificate:—

"We have examined the books of the Thompson's Patent Gravity Switchback Railway Company (Limited), and find that in respect of the Switchback Railways proposed to be taken over by the new Company the result of the present season down to the 1st September instant has been that the takings (or the Company's share, where they have only a part interest) amount to £12,575, and the working expenses (which include in some cases rent to the end of the season) amount to £4,620, leaving a profit of £7,955."

"TURQUAND, YOUNGS, WEISES, BISHOP, and CLARKE, Chartered Accountants."

It is estimated that the profits to be realized by the new Company during the remainder of this season will be sufficient to pay a substantial dividend before the end of the current year.

The business of the Vendor Company has increased so rapidly in Great Britain and the Continent, that it is considered expedient to divide the same, and by means of additional capital, to extend and develop the highly remunerative business now being carried on in the United Kingdom, by the erection of a further number of 10 to 20 Switchback Railways, which, it is estimated, will largely increase the earning power of the Company, and, after allowing a very ample margin for working expenses, enable it to pay a dividend of at least 20 per cent.

It is obvious, therefore, from the figures quoted, that the Shares will constitute an exceptionally lucrative investment.

The popularity of the novel and healthy form of recreation provided by Switchback Railways is now universally acknowledged. Although only introduced for the first time in England at the American Exhibition held last year in London over 1,600,000 passengers have during the current year availed themselves of this fascinating mode of locomotion in the United Kingdom alone.

An encouraging feature in connection with the future of this form of recreation is to be found in the fact that its popularity is steadily increasing; one proof of this is that this year the percentage of visitors to the Italian Exhibition who have availed themselves of the Switchback Railways is much larger than was the percentage of the visitors to the American Exhibition last year who used the same Railways.

The whole of the interest of the Vendor Company in the above-mentioned Railways, goodwill, English patent, licences, contracts, sites, plant, &c., will be made over to the new Company, and all costs and charges incidental to the formation of the new Company up to and including the first allotment of Shares will be borne by the Vendor Company, and no promotion money will be paid.

The consideration to be paid to the Vendor Company for the acquisition of the business and properties is the sum of £25,000 in cash, and £20,000 in fully-paid shares.

The present issue of 55,000 shares will provide ample working capital, and suffice to cover the cost of constructing the additional Switchback Railways already referred to.

The following contract has been entered into:—

A contract, dated Sept. 13th, 1888, made between Thompson's Patent Gravity Switchback Railway Company (Limited), of the one part, and the United Kingdom Switchback Railways (Limited), of the other part. There are no other contracts affecting the Company, except contracts under which the Vendor Company has from time to time acquired the properties and rights to be transferred to the Company, and ordinary trading contracts and engagements entered into by the Vendor Company incidental to its business, the benefit of which will be taken over by the Company. These are too numerous to detail, and, from their nature, it is undesirable to publish particulars respecting them. Applicants for shares will, therefore, be deemed to have notice of all such contracts and engagements, and will be deemed to waive the specification in this prospectus of the dates and names of parties thereto, as required by Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

It is intended to make application for a Stock Exchange quotation of the Company's Shares as soon as possible after allotment.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and of the above-mentioned Contract for the transfer of the business, may be inspected at the offices of the Company's Solicitor.

Applications for shares should be sent, with the deposit of 5s. per Share, to the Company's Bankers, or to the Secretary of the United Kingdom Switchback Railways (Limited), 5, John-street, Adelphi, London.

In all cases where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned to the applicant in full, and when the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the further amount payable on the Shares allotted.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from the Company's Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitor.

London, September 15, 1888.

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